# BAKER STREET ALMANAC

AN ANNUAL CAPSULE
OF A
TIMELESS PAST AND FUTURE

2023

# Baker Street Almanac

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OF A
TIMELESS PAST AND FUTURE

# 2023

IN THE FORM OF A FORMIDABLE SCRAP-BOOK OF 2022,
INCLUDING TREASURES CREATED OR UNCOVERED THEN,
WITH A FEW OTHER ODDS AND ENDS TOSSED IN

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

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**Editions:** There are two versions of the 2023 *Baker Street Almanac*: the limited *Sense of Humour Edition* (285 ink-on-paper copies, some of which include a few accessories), and the unlimited *Staunch Witnesses Edition* (electrons-on-internet format at www.greenbag.org).

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*Editors' note:* We do not have reports from Canada, Italy, or Switzerland this time, but we have high hopes for their return to these pages in 2024, with reports on their activities in 2023. And we would, of course, also welcome reports from other places around the globe and across the internet!

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*Editors' note:* Harrison and Linda Hunt's Past Sherlockians will return in the 2024 *Baker Street Almanac*. Andy Solberg's recommended reading is unchanged since the 2020 *Baker Street Almanac*, and so you might refer to that edition for his wisdom about essential Sherlockian reading.

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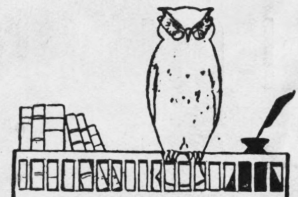

# The Editor.

## A Journal of Information for Literary Workers

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American Tract Building, New York City.

"Making and Marketing of Verse," By Roy Farrell Greene.

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# NORBURIED

*Ross E. Davies*[*]

This is our sixth *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

Every year of this project brings new and interesting contributors, topics, writings, and works of art. Here are some examples (I say "some" because this little preface lacks space to mention all the new niftinesses):

- Johanna Draper Carlson's new annual review of "Sherlock Holmes and Comics." Johanna is a leading authority on the subject, and runs the *Comics Worth Reading* website.[1]
- Madeline Quiñones's illustrations for our treatment of "How Watson Learned the Trick" (detail above) — her latest foray into cleverly conceived, beautifully rendered Sherlock art. For another taste, see her visualizations accompanying Joshua Harvey's *S.P.O.D.E.*[2]
- Our growing coverage of the Sherlockian virtual world, with reports from four leading communities — Five Miles from Anywhere (led by Derrick Belanger), the Hounds of the Internet (led by Alexander E. Braun), the Montague Street Incorrigibles (led by Brad Keefauver), and the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild (also led by Brad).
- Our first installment of the rightly renowned *Baker Street Elementary* comic strip, by Joe Fay, Rusty Mason, and Stephen Mason (detail below; for more, see page 18).

[*] Ross Davies is a *Green Bag* editor.

[1] To learn more, listen to her interview on *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere* (www.ihearofsherlock.com).

[2] www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FcnusUXg8k.

## Whispers of "Norbury"

We err. And Rich Krisciunas reads carefully. Here is what he noticed in the 2022 *Baker Street Almanac*:

Page 18, third paragraph, fourth line:

> "He was saying help us, because he more you help us" — "he" should be "the"

Page 78, first full paragraph, third line:

> "The Canon, ACD, and a Certaoin Gracious Lady" — "Certaoin" should be "Certain"

Page 98, third full paragraph, second line from the bottom:

> "including the Leland Hotel and the Stockholm restaurant, which (sic) a brief" — there should be a "had" after "which"

Page 162, the listing for The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn:

> "J. Andrew basford" — should be "J. Andrew Basford"

Page 177, listing for Five Miles from Anywhere:

> "Derrick Belanger" should be inserted below "An International Sherlock Holmes Society"

Page 311, first full paragraph, line 8:

> "2002" should be "2022"

Page 317, second paragraph, fifth line:

> "Lion's Man" — "Man" should be "Mane"

Rich is the kind of reader we adore. He takes in every single word. He does not merely see them. And he is contributing to a long, admirable tradition of careful Sherlockian reading, as the page reproduced at right from the December 1903 issue of *The Editor: A Journal of Information for Literary Workers* shows. Can you find the missing "the" in *Collier's*?

For his attention — and his willingness to share what he observes — Rich has earned a special honor from the *Baker Street Almanac*. See the last paragraph of this preface for more about that.

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

cause, in writing the story last summer, the author stopped to fan himself just at this point.

---

AS LATE as December 1st, large placards in the elevated trains of New York announce: "October number of 'The Household-Ledger' now on all news-stands." Goodness! won't that old issue ever sell?

---

GEORGE ADE is said to be so ashamed of his musical play, "Peggy from Paris," that he has promised to embalm himself in his next fable. Some critics of his last book are of the opinion that he did this in the last fable he wrote.

---

"I HAVE never written but two good stories," an author told us recently: "the one I am writing today and the one I am going to write tomorrow. All the rest join the procession of the unworthy." There is a world of thought to be gleaned from this whimsical declaration.

---

THEY SAY an author can't strike twelve with every story. Of course, he can't. Sometimes it gets lost, you know, and sometimes the stamp fund is exhausted, and sometimes the eleventh editor takes it. No, an author can't always strike twelve.

IN ONE of the sentences of Doyle's last Sherlock Holmes story in "Collier's Weekly," we found a construction that required the insertion of the article "the." We should have been willing to divide the extra dollar Sir Conan would have received had the sentence been perfect.

---

"EVERYBODY'S" SEEMS to have set the fashion in covers. The new "Popular Magazine" comes perilously close to imitating the style, and the January cover of "Ainslee's will picture a rooster and two hens that look for all the world as if they were crowing and cackling on "Everybody's" cover. In short, the same idea bids fair to become everybody's.

---

OF COURSE, "The Brown Book" is read, also, and "The Red Book" is not always read, and "The Nickell Magazine" very seldom prints gilt-edged stories, and "Youth" is growing old, and "St. Nicholas" never gets to its readers on Christmas Eve, and light reading matter has built up solid "Comfort," and "The World's Work" naturally costs money, and— Let's see! where were we?

---

WHY HAS the air grown warm and balmy? Why do people smile at us? Why does our heart feel big and

## 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 2019 edition, for example, was wrapped in a "How Watson Learned the Trick" dust jacket, the 2021 edition contained "Priory School" cricket caps, and the 2022 edition was accompanied by an "Abbey Grange" two-sided jigsaw puzzle. This year's edition is (or was) supplemented by a purple toothbrush from the offices of George William Barlow, L.D.S., R.C.S., dentist to Sherlock Holmes, and by a limited-edition set of postcards featuring the illustrations by Madeline Quiñones (who acts here as her own colorist) for "How Watson Learned the Trick."

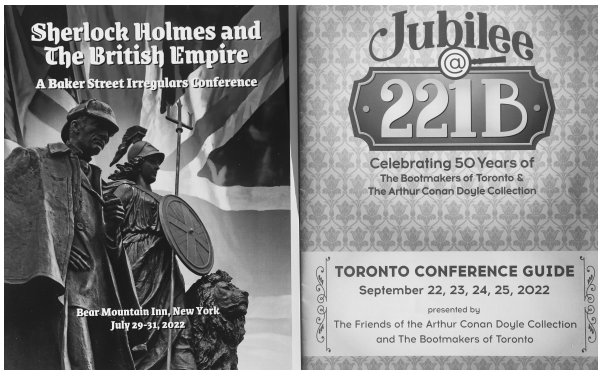
Who knows? Maybe next year we will have our very own beryl coronet (see page 314).

## Thanks

As ever, we thank the librarians, and Ira Brad Matetsky (whose sharp glance is always the last cast upon the *Baker Street Almanac*[3]), and Rich Krisciunas (who has joined Ira this year for the last-minute, or at least last-week-or-so, flyspecking business[4]). And we thank you, reader, for reading. Please do write if you think of something we ought to start or stop doing.

Ross E. Davies
February 28, 2023

[3] *Cf. Davies v. Mann*, 152 Eng. Rep. 588 (1882).
[4] *Cf. a fortiori Davies v. Mann*, 152 Eng. Rep. 588 (1882).




# The Return of In-Person Conferences

*Susan and Ben Vizoskie*[*]

In-person conferences are returning to Sherlockian life to great acclaim. For the many Sherlockians who are social beings, nothing is more enjoyable than being with others who share their interest in Sherlock Holmes. In 2022, we were delighted to be able to attend two conferences: "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire," sponsored by the Baker Street Irregulars, occurring at Bear Mountain Inn, New York on July 29-31, 2022; and "Jubilee @ 221B: Celebrating 50 Years of the Bootmakers of Toronto and the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection," sponsored jointly by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection and the Bootmakers, occurring in Toronto, Canada on September 22-25, 2022.

Conferences are publicized well in advance to aid prospective attendees in their planning. Dates are announced, and a schedule is provided. Conferences may follow a traditional weekend schedule with sessions on Saturday and a portion of Sunday as was the case at the British Empire conference or an extended format may be used with additional presentations on Friday as occurred at the Jubilee conference.

In some cases, a conference theme is announced or a provisional roster of speakers and/or topics is publicized. Speakers and their presentations form the backbone of most conferences. Presenters may discuss a new topic or look at a familiar topic from a new perspective. In either situation, details may be

[*] Susan and Ben Vizoskie have long served as officers of The Three Garridebs, in Westchester County, NY. All photos are by Ben (except for the photo of Henry Boote, which is by Randall Stock), and all photos of the BSI's Empire Conference are courtesy of the BSI. Copyright 2023 Susan and Ben Vizoskie.

provided that deepen attendees' understanding and appreciation of the subject. There were a multitude of knowledgeable and entertaining speakers at both conferences, including Sherlockians from beyond the host countries. Attendees thoroughly appreciated their efforts and enjoyed their presentations.

Frequently, a banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening. Socializing begins with a cocktail hour and continues throughout the evening; dining is interspersed with a program that may include toasts, a speaker, and perhaps other entertainment. In Toronto, attendees could participate in such a gathering. Fine toasts were offered, Nicholas Meyer was a fascinating and admirable keynote speaker, and a violinist performed as part of the program, also.

At the British Empire conference, a less formal experience was conceived for Saturday evening. Cocktails and a buffet dinner were followed by a choice or combination of three activities: browsing and purchasing at the Merchants Room; listening, dancing, or singing to music played in "Day's Music-Hall"; or, in the "Cavendish Club," playing whist, a card game that was popular across the British Empire. Both Saturday evenings were entertaining, convivial, and provided an important opportunity to relax and enjoy the camaraderie that is so typical at a Sherlockian conference.

The location of the conference may be an added attraction. Often Sherlockians research the conference site, whether a rural area or a city. Some "British Empire" attendees toured the U.S. Military Academy at West Point located nearby or took advantage of the Bear Mountain State Park facilities. In Toronto, some attendees included additional time to join the walking tour of Arthur Conan Doyle's Toronto or to see other city attractions.

If the site of a conference is a library with a special collection, optional tours of the building and its holdings are often incorporated into the program. Libraries or special collections often feature exhibitions that are tailored for the conference and showcase some of their treasures. This was the case in Toronto, and some conference goers used the opportunity to do research in the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection preceding or following the conference.

Whether many or few, vendors always provide attendees with the possibility of finding a perfect item for an existing collection or to inaugurate a new collection; for filling the gap on the bookshelf with a special volume; or for discovering a long-sought Sherlockian treasure. Vendors were present at both conferences offering diversion and delight to browsers and collectors alike.

Both conferences provided beautiful programs and distinctive carry bags to all, and there were other unexpected items as well. At the British Empire conference, each attendee received a creative two-part surprise, a new Sherlockian edition of a deck of playing cards from Queen Victoria's 1887 Jubilee, accompanied by questions and a quiz related to the cards and the Sidney

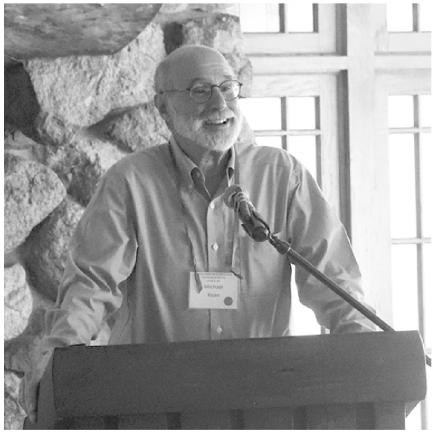
Paget illustrations on the face of each card. In Toronto, a Sherlockian quiz was included in attendees' program packets; each question featured the number *50*, effectively linking the Canon and the anniversary being celebrated.

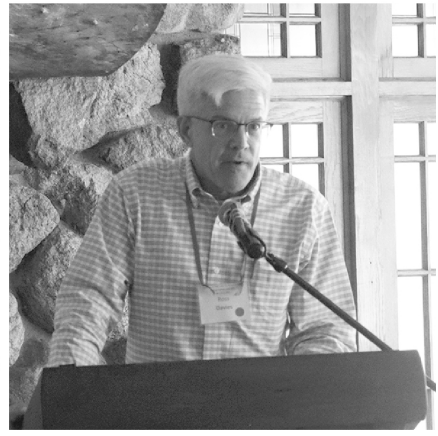
It is not an easy task to create an appealing conference that exceeds the expectations of the attendees and satisfies the requirements and constraints of various venues. Ross Davies, the organizer of "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire," and Cliff Goldfarb and Mike Ranieri, the organizers of "Jubilee @ 221B: Celebrating 50 Years of the Bootmakers of Toronto and the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection," succeeded splendidly, leaving conference goers with many very special memories.

Above: Bear Mountain Inn, site of the British Empire conference. Below: Toronto Reference Library, the largest branch of the Toronto Public Library, site of the Jubilee conference.

Above, left to right: Crystal Noll, Heather Holloway, and Christopher Zordan at the British Empire conference registration table. Below: Interior of the Toronto Reference Library.

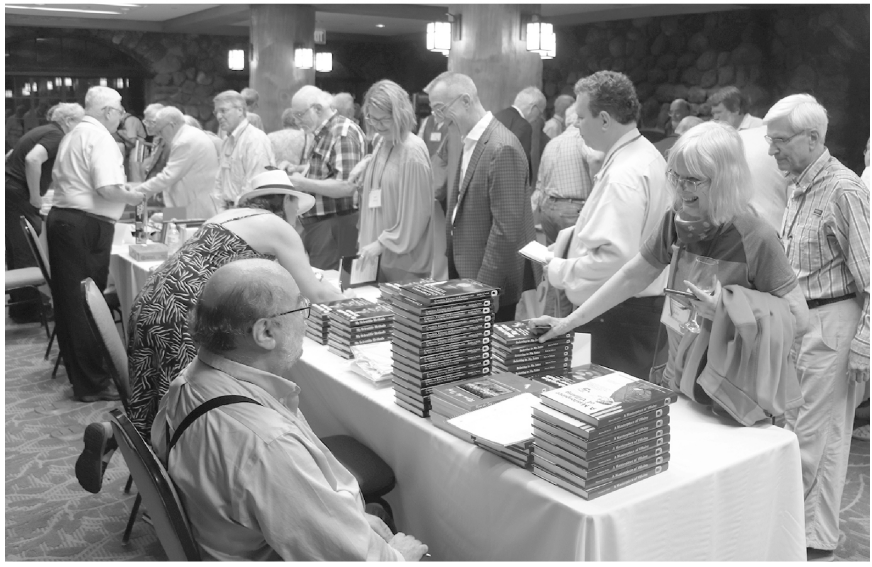
Above: Mike Ranieri (left), "Meyers" of the Bootmakers of Toronto and Jubilee conference organizer, and Clifford Goldfarb (right), chairman of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, welcome conference attendees to the Jubilee Conference. Middle: The presenters at the British Empire conference. Below: Michael Kean (left), the BSI's "Wiggins," and Ross Davies (right), British Empire conference organizer, welcome all to the British Empire conference.





Clockwise from upper right: At the British Empire conference, presenters included Marshall Berdan (from Hong Kong and the U.S.), Jayantika Ganguly (from India), and Peggy MacFarlane (from Canada); at the Jubilee conference, presenters included Mark Alberstat (from Canada), Rich Krisciunas (from the U.S.), and Mitch Higurashi (from Japan).

Above: Vendor tables at the Jubilee conference. Below: Merchants Room at the British Empire conference.



This page: At the Jubilee conference banquet, Philip Elliott toasts pirate Captain John Sharkey (above left), Nicholas Meyer delivers the keynote address (above right), violinist Avi Shadmani plays "God Save the King" and Sherlockian favorites (left), and diners chat before dinner (bottom).

Facing page: At the British Empire conference, participants queue at the lunch buffet (upper left), Henry Boote plays music in "Day's Music-Hall" (upper right), participants play whist in the "Cavendish Club" (middle), and diners chat over dinner (bottom).

Above: Betsy and Al Rosenblatt summarize the British Empire conference poetically.
Below: Rebecca Christie in Victorian garb at the Jubilee conference (left), and Joanne and Emily Zahorsky-Reeves in Victorian dress at the British Empire conference.

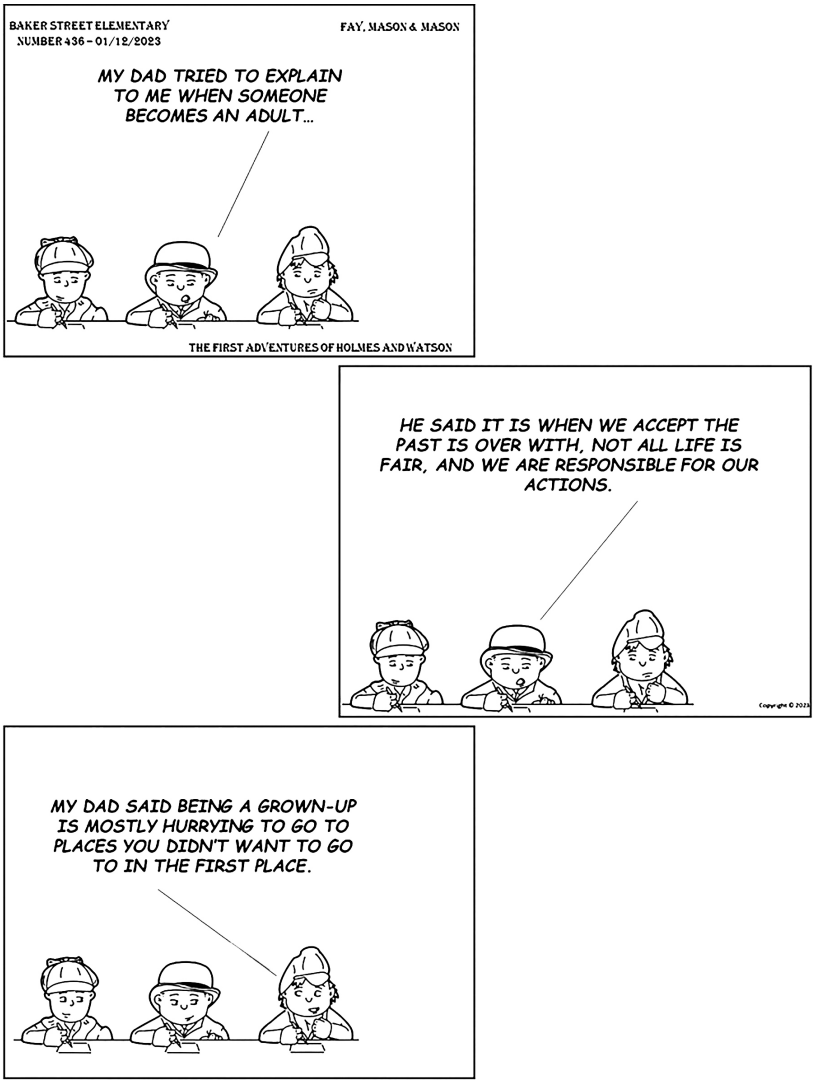
At the Toronto Public Library, during the Jubilee conference: special exhibition of early editions of Sherlock Holmes titles and related correspondence (above), and part of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection (below).

Some British Empire conference handouts and carry bag.

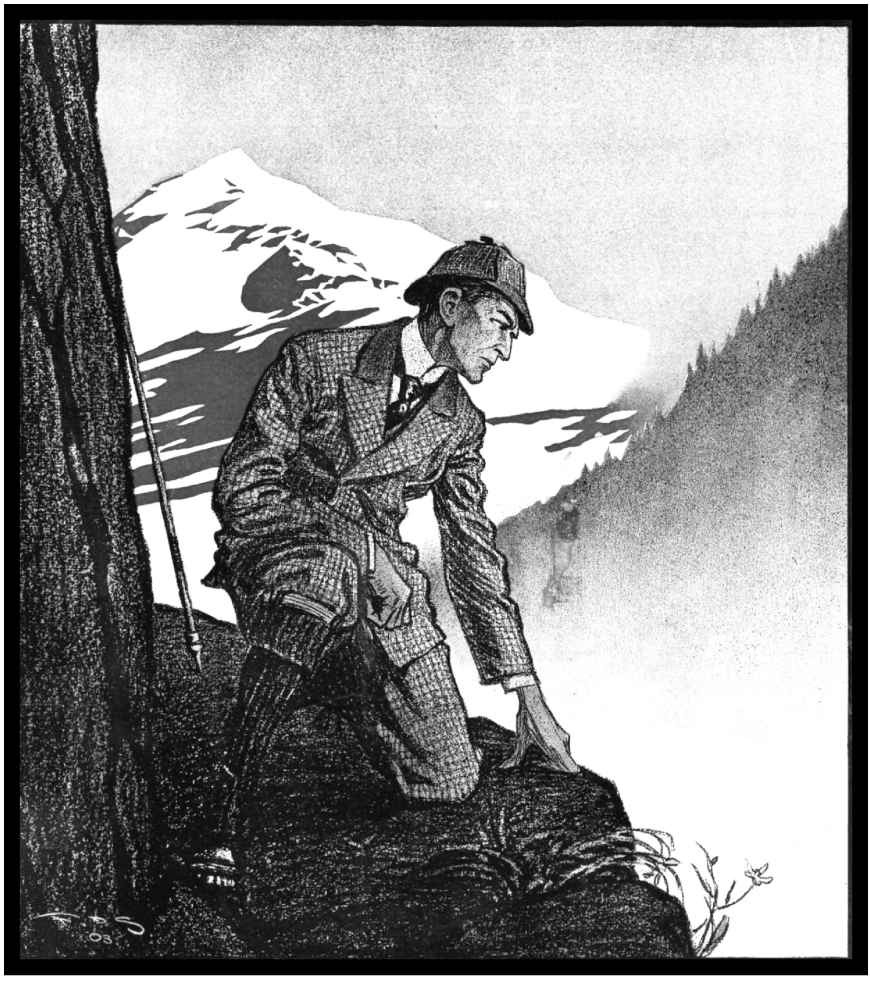
Some Jubilee conference handouts and carry bag.

# Baker Street Elementary

*Stephen Mason, Rusty Mason, and Joe Fay*[*]




[*] To learn more about these three extraordinary comic talents and their work, visit www.dfw-sherlock.org/baker-street-elementary.html. Copyright 2023 Stephen Mason, Rusty Mason, and Joe Fay. There is also a snippet of this comic strip on page 1.



# Around the World in 2022

Scionical and Societal Reports

edited by

Jayantika Ganguly (Global) and Monica Schmidt (U.S.A.)

Australia • Czech Republic • Denmark
France • Hungary • India • 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 2022

*Bill Barnes*[*]

*The Sherlock Holmes Society of Melbourne*

After a hiatus in 2021 the group reunited for their Annual Dinner and some learned presentations in 2022. Here's hoping the impetus continues for further Sherlockian camaraderie.

*Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia*

This group continued their successful formula of a mix of regular meetings and informal catch-ups. They are the most social of Australian societies and members regularly host get-togethers in their homes.

*The Sydney Passengers*

Having pioneered the online meeting format in Australia in 2021, the Passengers continued with this arrangement in 2022 to great success. It was wonderful that overseas members (and some guests) were able to join in the meetings and be entertained and informed by the interesting range of speakers.

*The Unscrupulous Rascals*

Members have formed a group called the Sherlock Holmes Players to present the occasional live reading of old radio plays, etc. This has been a hit at meetings and there may even be occasion for external performances in the future.

We all enjoyed our participation in the fun of being a Sherlockian or Doylean. There is always something new to learn and the friendships made last forever.

[*] Bill Barnes is the Captain of The Sydney Passengers. Copyright 2023 Bill Barnes.

# Sherlockian Activity in Australia 2022

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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16-Jan | SHSWA | SH Birthday BBQ and AGM | Member's home | Presentation of awards, planning of 2022 events and the Annual Empty House Shoot. |
| 13-Feb | SP | Meeting | Online | Talk by Liese Sherwood-Fabre on "The Scandalous Canon." |
| 20-Feb | UR | Meeting | Rob Roy Hotel, Adelaide | Quiz on REIG. Live reading of 1945 radio play "Murder in the Casbah" by the Sherlock Holmes Players. |
| 26-Feb | SHSWA | Meeting | Members' home | Show and Tell — Sherlock-iana, Victorian era, or crime related. |
| 15-May | SP | Meeting | Online | Two talks by Daniel Friedman — "The Man Who Saved Sherlock Holmes" and "Holmes' University — Oxford or Cambridge?" |
| 15-May | UR | Meeting | Rob Roy Hotel, Adelaide | Quiz on SUSS. Talk on "The Mystery of the Mary Celeste" by Mark Chellew. |
| 28-May | SHSWA | Movie night | Members' home | Cartoons, newsreels, film trailers and main feature. |
| 25-Jun | SHSWA | Informal catch-up over coffee | Members' home | Social event. |
| 21-Aug | UR | Meeting | Rob Roy Hotel, Adelaide | Quiz on GOLD. Talk on "Adelaide at the time of Conan Doyle's visit" by Glen Woodard. |
| 27-Aug | SHSWA | Informal catch-up over wine and cheese | Member's home | Social event plus a talk on "Wines of the Canon" by Fred Rutter. |

| Date | Group | Event | Location | Details |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11-Sep | SP | Meeting | Online | Talk by Antony Richards — "How Not to Be a Sherlockian Publisher." |
| 17-Sep | SHSWA | Informal catch-up over coffee | Old Theatre Lane Café, Claremont | Social event. |
| 30-Oct | SHSWA | Annual Croquet Day | Members' home (croquet lawn in neighbour's yard) | Fierce and ruthless competition played in good spirit. |
| 19-Nov | SHSM | Annual Dinner | The Melbourne Club | Amiable dinner, followed by two talks related to THOR — "Mrs Gibson's Death as Examined by a Coroner" by Darren Bracken, and "The Curious Incident of the Gun" by Gary Nolan; plus a talk on "Holmes' use of a loaded hunting crop" by Michael Duke. |
| 20-Nov | UR | Meeting | Rob Roy Hotel, Adelaide | Quiz on STOC. Talk on "Looking at the Detective Figure in the Time of Holmes" by Martina Taeker. |
| 20-Nov | SP | Play — "Sherlock Holmes and The Case of the Jersey Lily" | Genesian Theatre, Sydney | Theatre outing. |
| 27-Nov | SHSWA | Annual Blue Carbuncle Luncheon | Members' home | Social event and pre-Christmas catch-up. |

# Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes

## in the year of 2022 or 169 Anno Holmesi

*Aleš M. Kolodrubec*[*]

The year 2022 started for us on January 8 again with an on-line meeting to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' birthday. After Canonical toasts to The Immortals, we enjoyed a chat as well as a Canonical quiz. Ten questions were focused on ten stories from *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* which had been discussed in our study group so far. The winner received a certificate via e-mail immediately.

In that year we also kept on discussing Canonical stories in our on-line monthly meetings of the study group. In October we finished *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* and then we moved to "Silver Blaze" and *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*.

Ian Bennett of the Cesspudlians of London, Ontario started to attend our meetings and became a member.

Two of our members continued attending Zoom meetings of other societies around the world and became members of The Legion of Zoom. These two also passed the exams of the Fortescue Scholarship and became proud Artium Magisters in Sherlockiana.

During the year our group of pipesmokers attended several competitions in slow pipe-smoking under our flag. One of the competitions was also accompanied by an exhibition of works of art connected with smoking in general. Two paintings from my private collection were thus put on display there, too. One with a Canonical quiz showing ten icons connected with ten cases of Sherlock Holmes, the other a smoker's still-life.

After a long time our society finally organized an in-person meeting. This function was organized to commemorate the Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes and his return from the Great Hiatus. It took place in Brno (Brun — the capital of Moravia) on May 14. We spent a nice time together, enjoyed talking to each other, and played a Canonical version of the Kim's game. A paper on Lady Hallé written by the author of this contribution and published in *The Passengers' Log* (Vol. 15, Nos. 3 & 4) was read there, too. (Lady Hallé — Wilhelmine Norman Neruda — was born on March 21, 1838.) A Sherlock Holmes teddy bear commissioned by several of us became later a mascot of our society.

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[*] Aleš Kolodrubec is an Executive Founder and President of the Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes since its founding. All of the photographs are by Aleš, except the one captioned "Part of our competition team," which is by Jitka Uvegesova.

Česká společnost Sherlocka Holmese

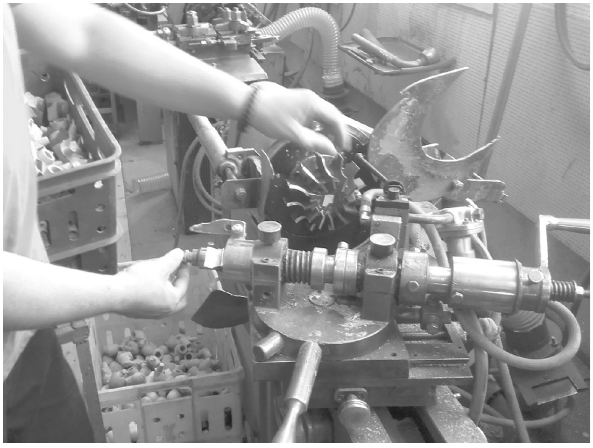
Česká společnost Sherlocka Holmese

Photos on the previous page: Top: the Czech Society's Brno meeting. Middle, from left to right: the Canonical quiz painting from Aleš Kolodrubec's collection, Sherlock Bear Holmes, and the smoker's still-life painting from Aleš's collection. Bottom: part of the Czech Society's pipe-smoking competion team (this photo by Jitka Uvegesova).

Photos on this page: Left: briar machining at the BPK factory. Right: Markéta Kočí during the BPK factory tour.

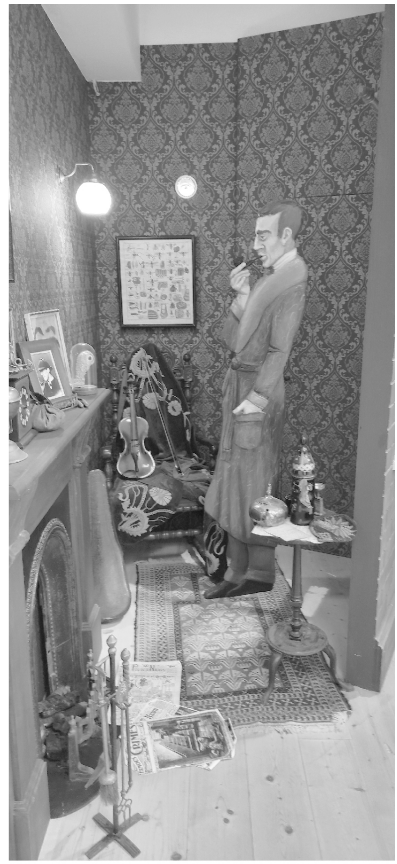
Photos on the facing page: Top right: musuem of pipes poster. Top left: Baker Street corner exhibit at the museum. Bottom: world-renowned pipe paintings.

On August 11, 2022, my colleague from our society Markéta Kočí and I visited the pipe-making factory of BPK Ltd. in Proseč — a small town in East Bohemia at the border with Moravia. After an interesting hour spent on the premises and watching pipe production, we moved to the town museum, which focuses mainly on the history of pipe-making in the region. The museum also displays a corner of the Baker Street 221B sitting room, as well as world-known paintings with pipesmokers. Later our article on the history of pipe-making in Proseč was written and published in the double issue of *The Passsengers' Log* (No. 2/ Vol. 25 & No. 1 / Vol. 26).



Our usual December pre-Christmas in-person meeting was cancelled and scheduled for the following year to be combined with the Toast to the Immortals to take place in Prague on January 7, 2023.

MUZEUM
DÝMEK
Unikátní expozice
• cesta dýmky • anatomie dýmky •
• dýmky známých osobností •
• dýmka v umění •
Otevírací doba:
květen, čer ven po - ne, sv. 10-12 12.30-16
červenec, srpen po - ne, sv. 9-12 12.30-17
září po - ne, sv. 10-12 12.30-16
říjen ne, ne, sv. 10-12 12.30-16
WiFi



# Sherlock in Denmark 2022

*Michael Skov Lambek*[*]

## Aarsmødet

What could possibly go wrong, we asked in last year's *Almanac* — rhetorically. Forebodingly. Foolishly! Well, we could have refrained from asking that particular question for one thing to begin with; for, as a matter of course, certain health and safety measures apparently could go wrong — as good old corona precautions came zooming along once more! So, the January 8 meeting was online only (dress-code less than formal — what gaily patterned pyjama bottoms might have been worn out of the scope of the camera?): thus, alas, toasts without speeches, quizzes without prizes, meetings without really meeting …

(The Danish by-laws do state that the AGM must be held on January 6 — or as close to that date as practically possible; but with the nefarious ghost of covid thus still looming in the background, "practically possible" apparently can refer to as much as several months. Apparently.)

## Aarsmødet (part ii)

Thus, the first day for the AGM practically possible was apparently the May 7 (but better four months late than never). And in Denmark, the Merry Month of May is traditional for confirming one's religious beliefs; and what better, grander, or world-wider religion than that of Sherlockendom?

Thus, far removed from the traditional natal day of the Master in cold and bleak January, many devout Sherlockians had now gathered in God's own glorious spring sun in order to manifest the Confirmation of their Faith. (No new members, granted; but none over the Reichenbach, either, thankfully.) And what better, grander, or world-wider venue to do that than in the austere but the beautiful, high-ceilinged vaults underneath the old Frederiksberg Townhall? (Frederiksberg, being a minor municipality within Copenhagen itself, sports its own separate townhall — if you must know.)

New venue, same revered traditions, as the Musgrave Ritual, solemnly recited by all congregated, opened the service. After that, the four Wise Men and one Wise Woman (of the Board) came bearing sweet gifts to the

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[*] M.S. Lambek is the Scatmester of the *Danish Baker Street Irregulars*, who really must try and get some of that proper Conanical research writing going! Just as soon, that is, as he has finished writing up minutes from all the various social gatherings of the Danish BSI and all of their scions … Copyright 2023 Michael Skov Lambek.

assembled flock: black pieces of candy called "Formosan Drops" in a box personally designed for the occasion by Svend Ranild, BSI (who also presented another volume of his traditional *Studies in Ranild* chapbooks).

One of said flock had even made the long pilgrimage all the way from the northern Scandinavian provinces: welcome to Åmund Grimstad of Norway!

The Holy Supper subsequently took place (both wine and water duly served); and after Communion, several wholly Conanical toasts were proposed — and this time with proper speeches, too: Mette Pedersen toasted Dr Watson; Åmund, Mrs. Hudson; and Christof Gleie Broder, Mycroft! The Rev. President, Mia Stampe Lagergaard, BSI, then preached of the goodness of past communal activities, while the more secular-minded Scatmester communicated about coins in the coffers.

This year, however, no member of the congregation needed to be excommunicated for heretical utterings or publications; but alas, no member had been elevated either into the saintly status of BSI: the Holy Mother Church! (Well, even though you can't have too much of a good thing, you can't have that thing every year.)

We forgot to show Svend Ranild's BSI Copenhagen trunk label last year (his Investiture was "A Copenhagen Label," you know) — duly designed by the Invested Irregular himself! An old research paper (1958) by old Danish Sherlockian Erik Arenfalk proved irrefutably that Messrs Enoch Drebber and Joseph Stangerson travelled across the continent to London via Copenhagen, and stayed at the Hotel Victoria in Store Strandstræde — which by a very curious coincidence was the very same hostelry that Messrs Felix M. Morley and Edgar W. Smith, BSI, (no other comparison) visited when they, too, in 1959 and '60 went to Copenhagen.

Another old member (but not quite that old) of the Danish BSI, however, could celebrate her anniversary: Lene Bach Cordes has held her membership card for an astonishing 40 years — why, she does not look a year over 40 herself: congratulations!

Later on in the evening, the white-washed vaults with their stained-glass windows reverberated with heavenly choir song (well, a lot of wine had filled our cups) of the traditional hymn: the old translation of "The Road to Baker Street," with the author, Palle Schantz Lauridsen, BSI, himself accompanying on the old six-stringed. And then there were the Master's cross-words: not our Saviour's last words on the cross (!) — but rather a traditional crossword puzzle set with real Conanical clues.

And to cap it all: "Copenhagen" Svend had, as per usual, set a devilish difficult quiz! And finally, as an appropriate postlude, Patrick Gowers'

hauntingly beautiful score to Granada's "Dancing Men" filled the sombre vaults and lent them the apposite solemn atmosphere to end the lesson. And thus, having once more confirmed their Holmesian faith, much rejoicing was shared by all members of the Sherlock Holmes Church in Denmark: elementary to that.

## Remember Scion?

On March 26, The Speckled Gang of Copenhagen scion met at the Rosenkilde residence: the chosen subject of their spring meeting was "Never Trust a Woman." So, trust them to give presentations a-plenty of female connections in the Canon: from wives and victims — to nihilists and cyclists.

Thus, Rie Lund Rosenkilde, for instance, talked on the "roguish" women in the Canon — which surprisingly, and rather interestingly, side-tracked the debate into which particular Danish word would best translate that particular sobriquet ("fræk"?). The Scatmester somehow found time to talk on a hitherto unknown critic, who was not only possibly the first dabbler in Higher Criticism, but also the first female one: Helen Elizabeth Wilson, in the *Cornell Magazine* in 1898.

"Copenhagen" Svend (for some reason always keen on *A Study in Scarlet*) began talking of men in women's clothing (Mrs. Sawyer) and finished with women in men's (Mrs. Norton). Whereas the President had brought her own Victorian-style dress in the exact electric blue colour of Violet Hunter's — and talked of that colour, which apparently was produced with coal tar derivatives. Now, you cannot get more Conanical than that, can you?

Our summer tradition of throwing Victorian Picnics in one of Copenhagen's parks has taken place so many times (at least twice) — come rain or shine (mostly rain) — that it is now referred to merely as our "VicPic"! And for once, when we met on the June 19, 2022, what came was shine! As well as a shining cornucopia of scones, poppy-seed muffins, and Palle's delicious finger sandwiches!

On the September 1, we gathered at the Presidential Copenhagen abode under the autumnal theme: "The Game is Afoot — but what is the Game?" It turned out that it was a board game, "The Baker Street Irregulars," in the series of board games, Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective. In the specific case called "The Curzon Street Kidnaping," the contestants not only learned new ways of thinking logically and deductively, but also discovered certain new and hitherto undetected personality traits of each other! (We are relieved to be able to announce that all still remain members, though.)

Alas, no news this year from Aalborg's grand old scion, The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street, but The (Very) Common Loafers of Kolding (not Copenhagen) are proud to announce that they met twice throughout 2022, at The (Very) English Pub there, doing what they do best: discussing Conanical Adventures and drinking Conanical Toasts! Boisterously. As we are told. We take their (loud) word for it.

## Wonderful, Wonderful Copenhagen

The distinguished Five Orange Pipes scion did not fail to deliver, however — and managed to forego previous years' extinguished pipes and meet to light up no fewer than three times in Copenhagen in 2022: on April 2, May 7, and November 13. Admittedly, other subjects than strictly Sherlockian matters were touched upon; but, as they assure us that it was done in thick tobacco fumes, it was quite in the Master's spirit — and thus a good thing.

May 28 saw a brand-new venue in our capital: The Copenhagen Comics festival at Øksnehallen! Club members Bo Green Jensen (writer, poet, and critic — isn't everyone one these days?) and Hallie Chance Lauridsen (doctor in media studies and not to be confused with Lauritzen!) were moderated by Christian Monggaard (author, collector, and film editor) in a talk on Sherlockian cartoons and comics in Denmark: from Storm P. a century ago — via Kaj Engholm in the 1960s, and Freddy Milton in the '70s — to the most recently rediscovered works of Peter og Perle (of more, below).

And on October 15, at the "Drop Inn" in downtown Copenhagen, certain members of the board met a certain Hon. President, BSI, and his violin. At this venue, we did hear a lot of bluesy jazz from Dr Django & His Nurses; but, as we heard of Sherlock nowhere, this might not qualify for a mention in Jens Byskov Jensen's musical dispatches.

## Sherlockiana

But not all was devout frivolity and solemn shenanigans: proper and serious Sherlockian research was undertaken by learned scholars and made public in the parish magazine, *Sherlockiana*.

"Copenhagen" Svend commented sagely on the centenary of *The Case-Book*, with some observations upon "The Problem of Thor Bridge" (not *A Study in Scarlet*); Christian Monggaard mused endearingly on the enduring qualities of Disney's *Great Mouse Detective*; while the Scatmester found time to harangue sarcastically upon the more fleeting qualities of Netflix's *The Irregulars*. (Though, for some reason, October's new Enola Holmes film completely failed to get a mention. Even in dispatches.)

Naturally, Lauridsen, PhD (not to be confused with old Sherlockian royalty like Lauritzen, BSI) did not fail to mention that Sherlock Holmes still does not exist — and not as an e-book either! (But as nobody really ever reads those e-books in Denmark, there were no grounds for excommunication this year!) That is, when Palle was not too busy helping Don Hobbs, BSI, with the massive number of Danish (incl. Copenhagen) entries in his gargantuan Galactic Sherlock Holmes!

Additionally, "Copenhagen" Svend penned two more lengthy articles on *A Study in Scarlet* (a specific specialty of his) — this time on film; while the Scatmester also had time to write two extremely lengthy articles on the hitherto unsolvable problem of how to date an old Danish Conanical book publication hitherto undatable (1989 — if you must know).

Furthermore, professional setter of cross-words, Paw Mathiasen, had set not one but two specific Sherlockian cross-words, Carsten Frölich contributed on *The 39 Steps*, and "Koder & Kryptogrammer" (a conference on Codes & Cryptogrammes in collaboration with the resident Danish Edgar Allan Poe Society) was once more rescheduled for a later date: this time, the November 12. And that's final!

And finally, the Scatmester did, by some inexplicable means, also manage to seem to be able to find time to review some of the publications of the season.

## (Very) Apocryphal Books

Talking of publications, isn't it remarkable that one and the same example of writing can either be read as the finest examples of classical literature for the mature and discerning reader — or as innocent children's books for the very young beginners?

These haven't been mentioned before, but this year thus saw three volumes published by Gads Forlag based on the Easy Classics in *The Sherlock Holmes Children's Collection*, illustrated by Arianna Bellucci and translated into Danish by Trine Bech: *Sherlock Holmes 4: Det plettede bånd* (SPEC); *5: De rødhåredes forening* (REDH); amd *6: Reigate-mysteriet* (REIG). Get 'em while they're young!

Old Disney comics of various film classics include Sherlock M. (M. for Mickey) Mouse in a retelling of "Baskervilles Hund" from the old 1965 version written by Vic Lockman and illustrated by Tony Strobl and Steve Steere, originally translated into Danish by Sonja Rindom. This year, this was republished by Copenhagen-based Story House Egmont in their fine collection *Disney's Anders Ands Filmklassikere*.

Another collection of not quite so old Disney classics was Disney's *Nu er julen kommet: Syv klassiske julehistorier*, published by Forlaget Carlsen. One of the seven Christmas stories included is Basil the Great Mouse Detective, in "Mesterdetektiven Basil Mus og julemysteriet," originally published in Danish by Wangels Forlag in 1987. This story has no connection with the film; however, that doesn't necessarily mean that it cannot be any good.

However, not every single Danish cartoon is based on American Disneys! In 1968, Danish cartoonist Werner Wejp-Olsen thus published his own original series of comic strips in a Danish newspaper, called Peter og Perle (the cartoon, not the paper). And in 2022 Eudor republished a collection of these, in which Peter the boy and Perle his dog team up with none other than Sherlock Holmes the detective. In Denmark! And at Copenhagen Comics.

Other publications do tend, we admit, to be foreign works translated into Danish. Thus, we saw volumes 3 and 4 in the new French zombie comic strip series written by Sylvain Cordurié, translated by Michael Gabelgaard Nielsen, and published by Zoom: *Sherlock Holmes Society 3: Sønnernes synder* was illustrated by Fabio Detullio and Andrea Fattori; and *Sherlock Holmes Society 4: Crime Alleys* by Alessandro Nespolino. It may be the Master vs. ungodly zombies; but a renewed interest in matters and publications Sherlockian that warrants comics for the (not so large) Danish market is still a good thing!

Although the film got no mentioning in dispatches, volume 2 of Nancy Springer's Enola book series was published by ABC Forlag and translated into Danish from *Enola Holmes: The Case of The Left Handed Lady* by Erik Egholm as *Sagen om den venstrehåndede baronesse*. This book has no connection with the film; however, that doesn't necessarily mean that it cannot get a mentioning here. (But not in dispatches.)

Finally, to end on a perhaps slightly more tenuous note, the year 2022 also saw the Books On Demand publication of volume 3 in Danish author Freya Anduin's historical crime novel series: *Lendorph & la Cour 3: Mord og Minespil*. This, the final instance of a (very) apocryphal version of the Sacred Writings, was partly based on old Danish true crime cases — featuring a fictionalized version of "Onkel Arthur" (surnamed Conan Doyle — if you really must know).

(Oh; it has just come to our attention that "Coder & Cryptogrammer" was, in fact, postponed! However, not for lack of participation or interest; but merely because the opening of the venue, Copenhagen's new "Enigma Museum," was postponed till February, 2023. Read more about it! In a later instalment of Sherlock in Denmark …)

That, finally, concludes the writing and the reading of the text: Hallelujah!

# Sherlock in France 2022

*Fabienne Courouge*[*]

2022 was an eventful year for French Sherlockians. It was punctuated with many celebrations, festivals and animations, books and magazine releases, and performances on stage.

## Anniversary

On Sunday January 30 the Holmesian Circle of Paris organized its annual party in honor of Sherlock Holmes's birthday. The members met for lunch and organized a secret Santa, then enjoyed a performance of The Unexpected Guest, the play by Agatha Christie. It also was an opportunity to celebrate the nomination of Laurence Deloison, President of the Circle, who became the first French woman invested in the BSI.

Then, on May 14 and 15, the Parisian club celebrated its 10th anniversary. On the first day, a scavenger hunt on the theme of "The Six Napoleons" was organized in the streets of Paris, and the day after, members met to pay tribute to the history of the club and share a meal and a beautiful cake. On this occasion, the artist Isabelle Lesteplume, member of the club, created a beautiful card.

## Sherlockian Societies Activity

The Sherlock Holmes Society of France (SSHF) enjoyed annual meetings as well. The Franco-Midland "Bastille Day" took place on July 14, in the village of Neris-Les-Bains (in the Auvergne). On the program: an exhibition on the evolution of Sherlock Holmes's outfits and a Victorian parade.

As for the Holmesian Circle of Paris, their monthly meetings took place at the Galway Pub on January 17, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October12, November 9, and December 15.

In the summertime, members of the Parisian Circle had a trip in Scotland, in the footsteps of Conan Doyle and Professor Bell. They visited filming locations of the *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* around Loch Ness. They also took advantage of the Fringe Festival to attend two Holmesian plays: *Watson, the Final Problem*, with Tim Marriott, and "The Return of Sherlock Holmes."

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[*] Fabienne Courouge is the founder and editor of *La Gazette du 221B*.

## Exhibitions and Animations

One of the main events in 2022 as definitely the exhibition "Les Mondes de Conan Doyle" ("The Worlds of Conan Doyle"), from April 2 to November 6. Created by Camille Renversade, with the help of Dominic Marquet, this exhibition took place in the castle of Hardelot, in the North of France. Built in the 19th century, this place is marked by Franco-British culture and was the perfect setting to offer the public an immersion in several Doylean universes: the camp of *The Lost World*, the Baker Street lounge, and a spiritualism room.

But many smaller animations also occurred, often led by members of Sherlockian clubs.

On March 19, several members of the Holmesian Circle of Paris animated a full day of the week of crime fiction in Bourg-La-Reine, near Paris

On April 1, Jean-Pierre Crauser (member of SSHF) led "Mystery at the Vinatier" — an investigative tour as part of Quais du Polar, the big festival of Lyon.

A literary meeting around Sherlock Holmes, led by Fabienne Courouge, also took place on Saturday September 17 in the city of Boulogne-Billancourt, near Paris.

From October 25 to November 19, as part of the Pop Culture festival BAM in the Paris region, the SSHF organized the exhibition "How Holmes Became Sherlock."

Several giant escapades around the theme of Sherlock Holmes occurred in many cities: "The Disappearance of Irene," "Arsene Lupin vs. Sherlock Holmes," "Sherlock Holmes Is Missing," etc.

## Media, Magazines, and Books

Daniel Henocq runs a YouTube channel called *Sher[UN]locked* and was awarded with a Doylean Honor for excellence in the "Performing and Visual Arts" category in 2022. He released a new episode of his series "Element-Story" about Basil of Baker Street, on July 15.

The SSHF launched a new publication: *The Ironmongers Directory* is an electronic newsletter dedicated to Holmesian French-language literary news. The two-month production is collected and presented in detail.

An online magazine, *La Gazette du 221B*, has been in existence for more than four years. Run by Fabienne Courouge and fed by regular contributors (Xavier Bargue, Robin Rowles, and others), it sheds a light on Sherlockian news and studies, books, movies, shows, performances, reviews, and French

and international personalities interviews. Issues #13, #14, and #15 were released in February, August, and December.

It would be impossible to draw up a comprehensive list of pastiches written by French authors, but some of them can be highlighted.

The French press "La geste éditions" started a brand new collection named *Le cercle Sherlock Holmes*. They challenged authors specializing in local history to place Sherlock Holmes in different regions of France and make him face mysteries and legends. The collection already includes 10 titles, such as *Sherlock Holmes et le mystère des reliques de St Martin de Tours* by Jean-Noël Deletang, *Sherlock Holmes et les mystères du Berry*, by David Verdier, *Sherlock Holmes et les mystères de Biarritz*, by Thierry Niogret, and *Sherlock Holmes et le mystère des Bonnes de Poitiers*, by Jean-Paul and Alain Bouchon. More novels are to be published next year.

In January, French Lecturer and translator of Conan Doyle, Jean-Pierre Naugrette, published his fourth Sherlockian novel: *Sherlock Holmes et le mystère de St Clere*.

In April, the third novel by Eric Larrey, who sets the youth and debuts of Sherlock Holmes in Lyon with his cousin Edmond Luciole, was released. Its title is *The Case of the Museum*. To be noted: Larrey's first work, *The case of the colonels*, is now available in English

France also has a large pool of authors or Sherlockian cartoons and graphic novels, and many albums were published, including:

*Sherlock Holmes T8 — Ténèbres sur Londres*, by Jarvin (scenario) and Boutanox (illustrations), is a graphic novel in which you're the hero.

*Arsène Lupin contre Sherlock Holmes*, by Jérome Félix (scenario) and Alain Janolle (illustrations).

*Les deux de Baker Street, T3 Missions Canada*, by Pascal Brissy (scenario) and Garance Royère (illustrations).

An illustrated version of *A Study in Scarlet*, by Vincent Mallié.

The *P'tit Sherlock* series, by Pascal Prevot (scenario) and Art Grootfontein (illustrations) — seven albums in 2022.

The English translation of Benoit Dahan and Cyril Lieron's work — *Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes* — will be published next year.

## THEATER

2022 was very fruitful for Sherlockian theater productions. No less than six plays were created and/or performed this year.

Not strictly Sherlockian, but featuring Arthur Conan Doyle as a character, *Les Voyageurs du crime* (*The Travelers of the Crime*) went on tour all over

France and on stage at the Parisian "splendid" theater all year long. This play is a sequel to *Le Cercle de Whitechapel*, both written by Julien Lefebvre.

*Le Secret de Sherlock Holmes*, by Christophe Guillon and Christian Chevalier is a police comedy staging Holmes and Watson's first meeting, and highlights the detective's humanity, which makes the character deeper and endearing. Chiseled text, lively and humorous performance, thrilling direction, and great outfits, the play premiered at the Théâtre La Bruyère in Paris on April 14 and is still on.

Created in Lyon, *Qui veut la peau de Sherlock Holmes?*, by Titouan Bodin and Nicolas Delahaye is an interactive play. The detective is accused of murder and has lost his memory. He needs all the help he can get from John and Mary Watson, and of course, from the audience, to reconstruct the facts.

Two plays by Christophe Delort have been simultaneously on stage in Paris. The first one, *Sherlock Holmes et le mystère de la vallée de Boscombe*, is an adaptation of "The Boscombe Valley Mystery." It's been a hit for the last five years and went on tour all over France, even at the famous theater festival of Avignon. The most recent one, *Sherlock Holmes et l'aventure du diamant bleu* (*Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Blue Diamond*), mixes the plots of "The Blue Carbuncle" and "Silver Blaze." The cast comes from theatrical improvisation and gives a tremendous pace to the performance and takes great delight in playing with the audience. Both plays were performed at the theater Le Grand Point Virgule, in Paris. Next year, the company will go on a tour that will take is as far as the Caribbean and Polynesia.

# Sherlock in Hungary 2022

*Zsófia Marincsák*[*]

The year 2022 was a difficult one for the Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club, but it wasn't easy anywhere else in the world either. It proved to be very true, what Sir Arthur Conan Doyle said: "Life is infinitely stranger than anything which the mind of man could invent."

Nevertheless, there were some great things happening to us, and we would like to give an account of these.

We gave a review for the book *The Game Is Afoot: The Enduring World of Sherlock Holmes*, by Jeremy Black, the renowned professor of history. The opinion of Zsófia Marincsák (Revati) is on the back cover, beside such esteemed personalities as Catherine Cooke, chairman of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London; Charles Giovanni Vanzan Coutinho, member of the Royal Historical Society; and Andrew Lycett, author of *The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes: The Life and Times of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*. It was our great pleasure that Professor Black was kind enough to give a mini interview to us, which was published both on our English (sherlockian-sherlock.com) and Hungarian (sherlock.blog.hu) sites.

Our club is now on the "Locating a Sherlockian Society" map of The Beacon Society. Mike McSwiggin contacted us for data to include in a presentation at the BSI's summer conference in New York.

Earlier we got in touch with American actor Drew McVety, who plays Sherlock Holmes in the play *A Sherlock Carol*. Thanks to his kind contribution, the author of the play, Mark Shanahan, sent us his touching writing detailing his inspirations, which had the title *Sherlock Shows Up*. It has also been published on both of our sites.

It was another huge honor to interview Aleš Kolodrubec, president of the Czech Sherlock Holmes Society, and to have the opportunity to share several articles by the talented American writer Liese Sherwood-Fabre. The Baskerville Pups interviewed Revati. American artist Kevin Norman gave his permission to post his wonderful Jeremy Brett illustration as a downloadable colourable image. American game collector Timothy Kline, who has an enormous Sherlockian collection, became our VIP member. Steve Emecz from MX Publishing kindly sent us a number of their books in PDF format. On Twitter (@SherlockianC) we have more than a thousand followers.

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[*] 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.

We also had a great change in our Hungarian club life. A new member joined us, Pál András Zleszik, who is a history teacher. (Just like Revati, he also speaks English. With him, the leading staff consists of three people — the third one is SherlockExtra, who can only speak Hungarian). András took our flyers to several busy places (schools, libraries, theatres, cinemas). He also wrote some excellent articles that our visitors loved. But the most important thing is that he became the designer of our future Sherlock Holmes exhibition, and he has made some beautiful Sherlockian relics. Our favourite is the specimen of the Musgrave Ritual.

We had some new European media appearances as well. Some bigger Hungarian media mentioned us, like Klubrádió (an online radio station) and the magazine *Best*. The site Atempo.sk, which is the first Slovakian site dealing with Hungarian music and culture, also wrote about us. Several posts from our Hungarian blog were recommended by sites blog.hu and index.hu — the latter is one of the most significant public sites in Hungary. SherlockExtra gave an interview to cultural blog *Kultúrjunkie*, speaking about the wonders Sherlock Holmes gave to us. This interview was later published in the printed magazine *Újnépszabadság*.

Our VIP member, Csongor Herke, professor of criminalistics (academic, head of department at University of Pécs, PTE) wrote an exciting article about Sherlock's crime solving methods and about crime scene investigation. We published it both in English and in Hungarian. It made us really proud that blog.hu and index.hu also referred to it.

We made a new, round-shaped club stamp, which has the iconic silhouette of the Great detective. In 2022 we used our re-designed club armour. The re-design was done by József Sváb, who is a renowned graphic artist awarded the Pál Korcsmáros prize. He made Sherlock calendars for our visitors. Our readers send us Sherlockian gifts, which are much appreciated (we hope that we'll be able to show these in a future exhibition). But unfortunately we also have to mention that our president and webmaster, SherlockExtra has several incurable illnesses, and her condition worsened, so we could not make the amount of progress that we wanted to. Yet, the game is afoot, and our enthusiasm and devotion towards Sherlock Holmes is unbroken.

# Sherlock in India 2022

*Jayantika Ganguly*[*]

The New Year 2022 chimed in, raising hopes for a return to normal life as India survived a devastating pandemic. In the year under review, the Sherlock Holmes Society of India (SHSI) involved itself by participating in online meetings of various other Sherlockian Societies, owing to the continuing restrictions on travel.

On July 3031, Ms. Jayantika Ganguly, General Secretary of the SHSI, attended the 2022 BSI Empire conference held at West Point, New York and presented a paper titled "The Great Agra Treasure and the Canonical Plundering of India." It was well received by the discerning Sherlockians.

Earlier in the year — January 16, to be precise — both Shri Sumal Surendranath and Ms. Jayantika Ganguly, President and General Secretary of the SHSI respectively, attended a discussion during the Literary Agent's Second annual meeting regarding "Conan Doyle's India."

The bi-annual prestigious journal of the SHSI, *Proceedings of The Pondicherry Lodge*, was released twice, June 1 and December 1. The said publication has attracted a large number of scholarly articles on the Canon from Sherlockians all over the world. It has entered its 10th year and has become a byword for its quality, under the helm of Ms. Jayantika Ganguly.

The SHSI in the coming years will endeavor to continue its charter of popularizing Sherlock Holmes to Indians, with a focus on youth. We remain grateful for the support and encouragement given by all Sherlockians to us.

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# Sherlock in Japan 2022

*Mitch Higurashi*[*]

In 2022, many Sherlockian/Doylean conventions, meeting, and lectures in Japan were held in face-to-face.

## The Activities of Japan Sherlock Holmes Club (JSHC)

*Organizer: Akane Higashiyama*

The 87th General Meeting (March 27, in Tokyo); 89 participants.

The 2021 Japan Sherlock Holmes Award was presented to the musical *Sherlock Holmes — The Game is Afoot!*, based on the characters created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, by the "Sora" group of the Takarazuka Revue.[1] Written and directed by Hirokazu Ikuta. Cast: Suzuho Makaze as Holmes, Minato Sakuragi as Watson. June 26-August 8, 2021 at the Takarazuka Theater, August 21-September 26, 2021, at Tokyo Takarazuka Theater.

The JSH Nobuhara Award[2] was presented to Masako Komatsuki, who finished the newest translation of the whole Canon (excluding STUD, which was translated by another translator) for Kadokawa Shoten publishers.

The JSH Encouragement Award was presented to the short story "Saigo no Aisatsu — His Last Bow," by Erica Kobayashi (appeared in the April 2021 issue of the magazine *Gunzo*).

Presentations: "My First 'Holmes Trip' around London," by Yuki Sahara; "Visitors' Guide to Places Associated with Holmes in UK (intermediate level)," by Ritsuko Furuta.

The 88th General Meeting (October 8, in Hikone city, Shiga prefecture); 66 participants

Keynote Speech by Kiyoshi Arai: "Shiga Prefecture and Holmes/Conan Doyle," (introducing Isao Yamagata, the first person in Japan to know and enthusiastically introduce Conan Doyle).

Presentations: "Unsolved Mysteries the Great Detective Missed," by Saburo Hiraga; "Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of the Sherlock Theatrical Movie," by

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[*] Mitch (Masamichi) Higurashi is "Baron Adelbert Gruner" in the BSI, and the advisory editor of *The World of Holmes of JSHC* and *The Baker Street Information* issued by JSHC. Copyright 2023 Masamichi Higurashi.

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

[2] The Nobuhara Award is the special award presented to a translator who has performed remarkable work. It was created to commemorate Yuzuru Nobuhara, the first person in Japan to translate the entire Canon.

Tomoya Yoshida (guide to the Mansuiso, a Western-style old mansions and estates in Matsuyama City, where the Japanese movie *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was filmed)

## SEMINARS

The 10th annual Tokyo Seminar (March 26, in Tokyo); 59 participants.

Presentations: "Circuit R, a Theater Company Specializing in Mysteries, takes on the Canon," by Kozue Chiba; "Background to the Publication of Japanese edition of *The Big Book of Sherlock Holmes*," by Mari Higuchi; "Didn't Yuzuru Nobuhara pull the Britannica?" by Yutaka Nakanishi

The annual Karuizawa Seminar (August 27-28, in Karuizawa Town, Nagano Prefecture); 31participants.

Presentations: "Mechanics of Materials for Sherlockians," by Seiichi Takehara; "Pearls aren't just the Black Pearls of the Borgia Family — Mary Morstan's Pearls," by Sachiko Abe; "Holmes versus Lawyers — is Holmes a Good Lawyer?" by Hiroyuki Futagawa; "Review of Previous Karuizawa Seminars," by Seiko Nakanishi.

## PERIODICALS

Monthly bulletin *Baker Street Information*. Editor in Chief: Kiyoshi Arai. 11 issues (Nos. 486 to 496) were distributed to about 630 Japanese members besides several foreign members.

Annual bulletin *World of Holmes*. Editor in Chief: Hirotaka Ueda. 2022 issue was published in December 2022. The issue commemorated 120 years since the publication of HOUN in book form.

Featured articles: "An Introduction: HOUN from a Variety of Perspectives," by Mitch Higurashi; "'The Slavering Hound' is brought to heel," by Jerry Margolin (from *Canadian Holmes* Vol. 45 No. 2 — Spring 2022), translated by Mitch Higurashi with the permission by Jerry Margolin and The Bootmakers of Toronto; "Dartmoor Journey by Public Transport — Cursed by a Demon Dog on Dartmoor, but Saved by a Demon Dog," by Hiroko Nakashima; "On Four Films of HOUN — Mainly the 1924 Japanese Film *The Secret of the Raging Hound*," by Takahiko Endo; "Why was Stapleton able to Commit Crimes with Dogs?" by Tomoya Yoshida; "Dog or Cat? — About the HOUN, Adopted for Children," by Hirotaka Ueda; Member survey, "What do you Find Attractive about HOUN?"

Contributed articles from the members: "Genealogy of a Great Detective — Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot," by Kunihiko Nitta; "Why is There

No Watson Role for Hanshichi?"[3] by Yoji Shinotsuka; "Sherlock Homes in Belgium," by Ritsuko Furuta; "Did Kenji Miyazawa[4] Read Sherlock Holmes Stories?" by Takahiko Wakabayashi; "Selected Masterpieces of Deductive Writing from the First 14 Holmes Stories," by Kenichi Sugimori; "The Canon and 'Women's Careers' in the Victorian Era — with the Example of the Story's Heroine, 'Governess'," by Hiroshi Hirakawa; "Where did ILLU's Chinese Ceramics Come from?" by Yutaka Nakanishi; "Reconsidering John Watson's Educational Background," by Akira Yoshida; "The Story of a Great Detective's Lives" (illustration), by Natsumi Inoue

## Sherlockian Activities in Japan 2022 (Principal Ones)

*Publications*

*Buildings in the Sherlock Holmes Stories*, by Naohiko Kitahara (text) and Takashi Murayama (plan and drawing), X-Knowledge Co., Feb 2022.

*English Grammar with Sherlock Holmes Stories*, by Motoyuki Shibata, et al., Ask Publishing, Feb 2022.

*The Hound of the Baskervilles — Movie "Sherlock,"* by Shuho Takase, Takarajima-sha, May 2022 (novelization of the movie, Japanese HOUN)

*Japanese edition of Murder in Old Bombay*, by Nev March, translated by Mayumi Takayama, Hayakawa Pocket Mystery, May 2022.

Japanese edition of *The Sherlock Puzzle Book*, by Chris Maslanka and Steve Tribe, translated by Shintaro Kumaki, Ronsosha, May 2022.

*The Hound of the Baskervilles — Movie "Sherlock,"* by Seiji Midorikawa, Kodansha Aoitori-bunko, June 2022 (novelization of the movie, Japanese HOUN, for children).

*London in 1906*, edited and translated from *The Queen's London* (photo album), by Yuichi Hirayama, Hirayama Detective Books, June 2022.

Japanese edition of *The Sherlock Holmes Miscellany*, by Roger Johnson and Jean Upton, translated by Masamichi Higurashi, Shgueisha International, June 2022.

Japanese edition of *Sherlock Holmes: The Back-To-Front Murder*, by Tim Major, translated by Masako Komatsuki, Kadokawa Bunko, August 2022.

Japanese edition of *Sherlock Holmes and the Shadwell Shadows*, by James Lovegrove, translated by Masamichi Higurashi, Hayakawa Bunko, August 2022.

Sherlock Holmes Bible: A 170-year Story of the Eternal Great Detective by Masamichi Higurashi, Hayakawa Publishing, October 2022

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[3] Hanshichi is a fictional detective in 19th century Japan, created by Kido Okamoto in 1917.

[4] Kenji Miyazawa (1896-1933) was a famous Japanese novelist and poet of children's literature who lived in Iwate prefecture.

Photo Album: London of the Queen edited and translated (from *The Queen's London*) by Yuichi Hirayama, Hirayama Detective Books, November 2022.

Japanese edition of *The Devil's Due*, by Bonnie MacBird, translated by Masamichi Higurashi, HarperCollins Japan, December 2022.

### *Movies & Plays*

*Greek Interpreter*, by Theater OM (written by Minoru Ohki, directed by Makoto Inamori), May 20-22, 2022 at the Theater OM (#8 of the series).

*The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Sherlock Movie directed by Hiroshi Nishitani. Cast: Dean Fujioka and Takanori Iwata, Fuji TV, Toho, et al., June 2022.

*Music and Reading: Sherlock Holmes* (TWIS, ENGR, NOBL) by Nosaka Lab (directed by Minoru Nosaka, music by Atsushi Yamanaka), September 10-11, 2022, Iino Hall.

### *Events & Lectures*

*The World of Sherlock Holmes Stories*, by Masamichi Higurashi, Oyama City Hall, Tochigi Prefecture, May to July 2022 (lectures).

*Boy's Own Paper and Conan Doyle*, by The Japan Society for Children's Literature in English at Nara Women's University, November 2022 (symposium).

### *Others*

BAM Kamakura, English Antique Museum, opened on September 23 in Kamakura City, Kanagawa Prefecture It includes "Sherlock Holmes' Room." https://www.adfwebmagazine.jp/en/art/sherlock-holmes-room-is-recreated-at-the-museum-of-british-antiques-designed-by-kengo-kuma/.

A Japanese statue of Sherlock Holmes was built in Karuizawa Town in October 1989. To compensate for the lack of funds to maintain the statue, its "Statue Management Committee" established October each year as "Holmes Statue Month," and began collecting donations for the statue's maintenance and environmental improvements from 2022.

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

# SHERLOCK IN THE U.K. 2022

*Roger Johnson*[*]

2022 was an easier year for British and Irish Holmesian societies than those immediately preceding, though we weren't — and still aren't — wholly free of the Covid pandemic. Once again, we must focus mainly on The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, which is by far the largest and most active.

Oscar Ross, Purser of The Crew of the S.S. May Day ("moored in Belfast") remains indefatigable. He continued to issue the Crew's newsletter, *Mayday Mayday*, though not to the ideal monthly schedule. Meetings in person are, we understand, once more taking place.

The Poor Folk Upon the Moors, based in southwest England, had a busier year. Chairman Stephan Arthur and his team were able to arrange several meetings, as well as publishing the very welcome Spring and Autumn issues of their estimable journal, *The Torr*, edited by the no less estimable Mr. Arthur.

It doesn't really qualify as a Society meeting, but many of those who attended the launch of Seamus Duffy's novel *Sherlock Holmes and the Sixty Steps* at the Glasgow Art Club on June 8 were members of The Sherlock Holmes Society of Scotland.

One Society that has no difficulty in arranging meetings is The Shingle of Southsea, whose membership is not large, consisting as it does of the founder, Paul Thomas Miller and, er, no one else. They meet — or, rather, he meets — in the Sherloft, the rather wonderfully furnished attic in the Miller family's house. (Sherloft — and as far as we know this is purely coincidental — is also the name of a hotel in Chiang Mai, in northern Thailand.)

As we noted in the previous *Almanac*, 2021 saw the Platinum Jubilee of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, which was founded in 1951. Last year was also one of great significance for the Society, as *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* first appeared in 1952. We had published a special supplement for the Society's 70th anniversary, but decided against doing the same for the *Journal*'s. However, its story was covered, along with much else, in a handsome new book, *That August and Scholarly Body: The Society at 70*, edited by Nicholas Utechin.

For reasons not unconnected with the Covid pandemic, the Society's Annual Dinner, scheduled for January 8, had to be postponed until May.

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[*] Roger Johnson is a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, for whom he edits *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*. He gratefully acknowledges Valerie Schreiner, Chris Seymour, Peter Horrocks, and Rakshita Patel. Copyright 2023 Roger Johnson.

The "Morning After" lunch did take place the next day, as intended, at The Barrowboy and Banker in Southwark, but in her welcome, Catherine Cooke referred to it simply as "The Morning — since it is not this year coming After anything!"

Catherine continued:

> While this is usually a very informal event, there are a couple of things that we should have done at The Dinner, so should like to do today. The first is the Tony Howlett Award, for exceptional service to the Society. This year's recipient is one without whose expertise, patience and calmness in the face of electronic glitches the Society would have struggled to keep meeting since the world went all awry back in March 2020. The Society, as did so many societies, choirs and groups, turned to Zoom to continue meeting and discussing the life and work of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. Someone had to organise those meetings, send out the links, deal with those of us who lost or otherwise could not access those links on the day, let us into our private meetings, herd us into virtual rooms, and out again as necessary, mute and unmute us, create and show videos — notably for our 70th anniversary — liaise with others showing films at meetings … The list goes on. Plus, of course, deal with anything that went wrong or was unexpected. (I seem to remember a rather large rhinoceros making an appearance during one meeting!) And, as if that wasn't enough, our recipient managed our cautious return to in-person meetings — including the Annual Dinner, which is tricky enough at the best of times, but immensely more complicated by the sheer uncertainty of what restrictions or rules might come into force at any given point — and indeed did come into force! You will, by this time, have deduced that the recipient of The Tony Howlett Award this year is Jane Arnold-Forster!

Next, Catherine shared greetings from the Doyle family, who had sent a facsimile of Sir Arthur's 1921 Christmas card. Finally, she said, there was one more duty:

> We must give a huge thank you to Jane for organising the Annual Dinner — then unorganising it at ridiculously short notice. On behalf of those who had hoped to gather at the House of Commons, I am giving her yet another thing to lug home: a nice bottle of champagne, which I understand comes highly recommended by Sir Winston Churchill!

That was the end of the formal business. From then on, it was a purely social meeting, with good food and drink, and — as the old song says — jolly good company!

On March 10, the Society held its second non-virtual meeting of the year in the library of the University Women's Club — the ideal place to discuss the topic of Women and Sherlock Holmes. The new Meetings Secretary, Elaine McCafferty, introduced four fifteen-minute talks, followed by five brief presentations (or "three-minute problems").

First, John Morewood spoke about the women in relation to the Society's *Gazetteer*, which John has masterminded. He referred specifically to the anonymous noblewoman who killed Charles Augustus Milverton in Hampstead; Alice Turner of Boscombe Valley in Herefordshire; Irene Adler of St. John's Wood — "the woman" — who outwitted the King of Bohemia and Sherlock Holmes; and Violet Smith, who felt threatened by a Solitary Cyclist in Surrey. Heather Owen's subject was the Canonical portrayal of women of the "lower class" — what we would call the working class. Helen Dorey concentrated on women who might have rivalled Irene Adler for the title of the woman: Helen Stoner, Violet Smith, Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope, Señora Victor Durando, and others. Last of the four main speakers was Peter Horrocks, who told us about his choice for the worst women in the Canon: Eugenia Ronder, Maria Gibson, Holy Peters' so-called wife Annie Fraser, the woman who poisoned three little children for their insurance money, and worst of all, the lady who killed that "harmless sausage magnate" Charles Augustus Milverton — who was actually the wurst man in London!

Then came the "three-minute problems." Catherine Cooke spoke about the work and contributions of governesses in the canon. Calvert Markham wondered whether Sherlock Holmes had a repressed female identity. Rakshita Patel brought us into the 21st century with the reimagining of Mrs. Hudson and Mary Morstan in the TV series *Sherlock*. Valerie Schreiner considered two impressive women in the 1940s films starring Basil Rathbone: Lydia Marlowe in *The Woman in Green* and Hilda Courtney in *Dressed to Kill*. Finally, Jonathan McCafferty concluded with a look at the unfortunate Eliza Barrymore — housekeeper at Baskerville Hall and sister of the Notting Hill murderer.

Women have made their mark in the Canonical adventures of Sherlock Holmes and in modern adaptations. He was a man ahead of his time, encountering women ahead of theirs.

(Thanks to Valerie Schreiner for this report.)

The idea was that our first live, in-person London Mini-Festival since 2019 should begin on May 19 with the Annual General Meeting. Sadly, it proved impossible to raise enough members to constitute a quorum, so the

legally required formal business had to be postponed till later in the year. And we went ahead with the fun stuff!

Some twenty members gathered at The Little Ship Club, in Three Cranes Walk, overlooking the Thames on the north side by Southwark Bridge. The club was formed in 1926, so that "during the winter months, then the dead season, many keen sailing people would be glad of an opportunity to get together and swap yarns."

After an excellent dinner with much swapping of (Sherlockian) yarns, we settled down to a quiz, The Sign of Four-and-Twenty Questions, devised by questionmaster Chris Seymour, ably assisted by Carole Markham.

Six teams of three competed, with the Sherlock "knowledge experts" divided up to give them all a fairly equal chance. The teams came up with their own names: "Agra Aggregate," "The Three Garrulous," "Monkey Business," "The Sign of Three," "Three Pips of Yellow-Reddish Hue," and "The Three Garibaldis."

Names and numbers comprised the content of the quiz, a mix of single answers, lists, and multiple choices. Some simple questions, others more fiendish. For example, to the nearest pound, how much money was found in Neville St. Clair's coat in "The Man with the Twisted Lip"? A knowledge of pre-decimal currency is required here. The answer is £2, consisting of 421 pennies and 260 halfpennies, making 551 pennies; divided by 240 pennies in a pound to give £2 and 71 pennies.

Perhaps you know which cake is also the surname of the client in "Wisteria Lodge"? Eccles of course.

After all twenty-four questions and a closely fought contest, the winners on the night, by just one point from two runners-up, were "The Three Garibaldis." Congratulations to Marcus Geisser, Roger Johnson, and Philippa Kelly, and all the other quiz participants. The prizes were special Society ballpoint pens kindly brought along by Paul Gillings.

(Thanks to Chris Seymour for this report.)

On the following evening, the second event of the Society's 2022 "May Weekend" was a walk, in search of locations associated with "The Blue Carbuncle." Our guide was Richard Burnip, actor, Holmes expert for the London Walks company, and fellow-member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

We met at Goodge Street Station, a short distance from the site of Henry Baker's unfortunate encounter with "a little knot of roughs." Turning in to Goodge Street itself, we made our way to Whitfield Street. It seems likely that Mr. Baker rented rooms in Colville Place, which flanks the attractive adjoining park, Whitfield Gardens. On the other side of Whitfield Street

from the Gardens is the Central London Police Station of the British Transport Police, the specialist force responsible for policing the railway network in England, Wales, and Scotland, including the London Underground.

From there, to Percy Street, where a blue plaque commemorates Charles Laughton, the first actor to play Hercule Poirot, and then to Montague Place. Arthur Conan Doyle lived here while trying to make a success of his practice at 2 Upper Wimpole Street. There are no houses left in Montague Place, but those in Montague Street, where Sherlock Holmes had rooms when first in London, still stand — including no. 24, which was then occupied by a Mrs Holmes. Coincidence? Perhaps.

Passing the British Museum and the two leading candidates for the "real" Alpha Inn (the Museum Tavern and The Plough), we crossed High Holborn and headed for Bow Street. Standing in front of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden — where Holmes must have been a frequent visitor — we admired the imposing edifice opposite. This was Bow Street Police Station, where Sherlock Holmes unmasked Mr. Neville St. Clair; before that it was the home of London's first detective force, the Bow Street Runners, founded in 1749 by the novelist Henry Fielding, a magistrate at Bow Street Magistrates' Court. The building now houses a luxury hotel — and, since 2021, the Bow Street Police Museum. Thanks to our erudite and amiable guide for a fascinating tour!

As mentioned before, the Annual Dinner was originally scheduled for January 8, but — to no-one's great surprise — it had to be postponed. Fortunately, we were able to incorporate "The Professorial Provender" as the central event of this year's London mini-festival. On Saturday, May 21, we were delighted to return to the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons, by courtesy of our sponsor, Gareth Bacon, MP. It was a particular pleasure to welcome friends from overseas — especially, in my case, Peter Blau, Secretary of the Baker Street Irregulars, and Honorary Member of our Society, who has been a wise and generous friend to me for more than fifty years. Another notable presence was the creator of the famous Sherlock Holmes tartan, Tania Henzell — great-granddaughter of Sir Geoffrey Bromet, whose second wife was Dame Jean Conan Doyle.

After a first-class meal, Catherine Cooke welcomed members and guests to her first Annual Dinner as Chairman, singling out visitors from abroad, six of our Honorary Members, and Lady Chapman, whose late husband Sir Sydney was our long-time sponsor at the House. As our Treasurer, Ashley Mayo, would shortly stand down, Catherine presented him with a unique engraved beer mug, in gratitude for his years of inspired service. There was a special gift too, a Victorian print of the Houses of Parliament, for Nancy

Browning and Mike Homer, who flew over from America in January, not knowing that the Annual Dinner had been postponed; the experience didn't put them off coming again in May!

And so to our Guest of Honour. Professor Moriarty — Professor Michael Moriarty, that is: Drapers Professor of French at Cambridge University — first addressed the Society in 2016, at the Reconciliation Dinner at Christ's College, Cambridge. He also made a delightfully witty contribution to our Platinum Jubilee video *70 Years of Fun*, channelling his nefarious namesake. This evening, his subject was the depiction of academics in the Holmes Canon. Consider, for instance, Professor James Moriarty, Professor Presbury, Professor Coram — a pretty unpleasant lot! Or think of Dr. Thorneycroft Huxtable, Mr. Hilton Soames, Dr. Percy Trevelyan — clever but hardly impressive characters. The only academic who really comes out well is Dr. Leslie Armstrong. "I ask you to admit," said the Professor, "if only in this one instance, the possibility that the Sherlock Holmes stories are not literally true or a comprehensive picture of reality."

The second speaker was our President, Jonathan McCafferty, who informed us that he has devoted many days and hours in providing counselling for Professor Moriarty, to help him "overcome his aversion to the man Holmes, and to bury the wretched hatchet of inherited antipathy." Jonathan McCafferty and Michael Moriarty, he revealed, found common ground in their mutual respect for Dr. Watson. Sherlock Holmes, as we know, had French ancestry, but Watson was evidently well acquainted with France and the French. Given his attitude to the fair sex and to matrimony — he must have been married at least six times, perhaps bigamously — can we doubt that he was himself French? The toast is to Dr. Jean Henri Watson!

The toast was followed by laughter, lively conversation, another drink or so, and fond farewells.

As the originally scheduled social lunch in January had ended up as simply the "Morning," a proper "Morning After" was held on the 22nd at the picturesquely named Boot and Flogger opposite the Crossbones Graveyard in Southwark.

On June 19, for the first time in four years, the Gentlemen (and a couple of invaluable Ladies) of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London took on the Gentlemen of the P.G. Wodehouse Society (the "Gold Bats") for a one-day match played to the laws of 1895. As always, the event was held at West Wycombe, on the most picturesque cricket ground in the country. A very welcome spectator at the match was the former England international wicket keeper and batsman, Jack Russell, now highly regarded as an artist.

The Society's Captain, Peter Horrocks, reported:

> Despite a gloomy forecast the weather held and we had a full day's play. The ground looked glorious and numerous red kites were swirling dramatically around us as we played. With late cancellations, there were some alarms about mustering a team this year, but thanks to two gallant lady spectators stepping in we duly deployed a full XI. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London got off to a good start, securing two early wickets. An impressive century by one of the Wodehouse Society's batsmen then put them in a good position, leading to a declaration on 225 for 4.
>
> What followed was a stellar opening stand by Ed and Rob Hamill, some of the finest batting the series has seen. Ed scored 101 before retiring, once defeat was no longer an issue. Ultimately, a target of 226 runs to win was just beyond us, and we fell 26 runs short at the 6.00 pm close. However, it was an exciting run chase and a very absorbing day's cricket, one of the best in the history of the fixture. Under 1895 laws, with no limited overs, falling 26 runs short simply meant a draw. We remain one up in the series.

Our first extended excursion since 2019 finally took place over the weekend of the September 2-4. We were following in the footsteps of Holmes and Watson on their final adventure together, "His Last Bow." Older and wiser in August 1914, our heroes are still faithfully serving King and Country. The story is set near Harwich, and the action revolves around the bringing down of a German spy, one Von Bork.

We stayed in a beautiful Tudor mansion, across the county border at Woodbridge, Suffolk — Seckford Hall, now a luxury hotel and spa.

Our first event was "The Naval Signals Dinner," named after the pigeonhole where Von Bork planned to place the gem of his collection — a plan that failed dramatically! After the meal, John Morewood gave a fascinating talk, "Today or Tomorrow," on Conan Doyle, the Royal Navy, and Harwich, preparing us for next day's exploration of Harwich.

On Saturday, we were welcomed in style by the Harwich Town Crier, before being divided into three groups, each under the care of an expert tour guide. The key sights we covered were the Port of Harwich, the Ha'penny Pier, the Light Vessel LV18, the Electric Palace cinema, St. Nicholas Church, the Guildhall, the Lifeboat Museum, Harwich Green, the Treadwheel Crane, and finally the house of Christopher Jones, Captain of the most famous ship built in Harwich — the Mayflower.

A new attraction, a bronze statue unveiled only two days before our visit, commemorates a more recent event, the Kindertransport, when 10,000 unaccompanied Jewish children were rescued from Nazi persecution. The first

group of two hundred landed at Parkeston Quay, Harwich on December 2, 1938.

In the afternoon, we reconvened at the Electric Palace, one of the oldest surviving purpose-built cinemas, which had reopened only a few weeks before, after repair and restoration work. There we settled down to watch Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin in *The Twentieth Century Dawns*, the final film in the outstanding Soviet TV series. The plot ingeniously combines "The Bruce-Partington Plans" and "His Last Bow."

Back at Seckford Hall, Roger Johnson gave an after-dinner talk on M.R. James, who knew this part of Suffolk intimately. Scholar antiquarian, and author of some of the finest ghost stories ever written, he was also a great admirer of Sherlock Holmes!

On Sunday morning, the final day of our weekend, Marcus Geisser, Catherine Cooke, and Marina Stajic engaged our interest and stimulated our curiosity about different aspects of "His Last Bow" that they had investigated.

(Thanks to Rakshita Patel for her report.)

On October 18, the Society returned to the National Liberal Club for the 2022 Richard Lancelyn Green Memorial Lecture, delivered by the award-winning crime novelist Mike Ripley, whose survey of great British thrillers, *Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang*, won the 2018 H.R.F. Keating Award for best non-fiction crime book.

Following a convivial dinner, the Chairman and Treasurer (Catherine Cooke and Ashley Mayo) conducted the Annual General Meeting — which, you'll remember, had been postponed from its original scheduled date in May. That satisfactorily concluded, Catherine handed over to Roger Johnson, who introduced Mike Ripley and "I Spy Sherlock."

"Let me begin," said Mike, "with a declaration of intent. I have no intention of trying to teach this audience anything about Sherlock Holmes. I simply would not dare."

We can agree that Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories laid the foundations of the English detective novel and were the inspiration for its blossoming in the 1920s and '30s. However, in that Golden Age, detective novels were consistently and heavily outsold by thrillers — stories of spies and secret agents, who didn't so much detect as shoot first and ask questions later. It was a genre that fed on political fears both real and imagined at home and abroad, and it developed a dependable and very popular format. It introduced heroes who became household names, even if only briefly, though none would last like Holmes.

In 1870, the German victory in the Franco-Prussian War shocked Britain. The rise of Germany and its imperial ambitions led to an arms race on land

and sea, and inevitably to an outbreak of what was known as "spy mania." The over-riding fear among British politicians was of invasion by a foreign power, and between 1870 and 1914, more than sixty stories were published, describing invasions of England, by France, Russia, China, Japan, and even the U.S.A. — but mostly by Germany.

A best-seller in this xenophobic scare-mongering was William Le Queux, whose initial success came with *The Great War in England in 1897*, published in 1894, which detailed the dastardly invasion plotted by the dastardly French with their dastardly allies the Russians. Even more successful was *The Invasion of 1910*, published in 1906, which had the Germans landing on the Suffolk coast and marching on London.

Invasion-paranoia was also the theme of the first British spy story of real quality, *The Riddle of the Sands* by Erskine Childers, published in 1903. It's also the only spy novel written by someone later executed as a spy.

Apart from the Kaiser, the other perceived threat to national security was provided by anarchists of various hues, including the Suffragettes or "window-breaking furies" as Holmes describes them in "His Last Bow," though he implied the Kaiser was probably responsible for them as well.

Germans and anarchists were popular villains, but so too was organised crime, epitomised by The Red Hand, an international crime syndicate created by Edgar Wallace in *The Fourth Plague* in 1913. The plot was ahead of its time, yet the story also reflects its own changing times. Fast cars supplant horse-drawn carriages, and our hero must devise a crude but cunning way of tracking one, a century before CCTV or numberplate recognition.

Wallace became one of the most successful and prolific-to-the-point-of-carelessness thriller writers, even exploiting the fear of German invasion in his 1912 novel *Private Selby*. After the war, he concentrated on crime novels and adventure thrillers, because he had been overtaken in the spy stakes by John Buchan.

*The 39 Steps*, published in 1915, was a game-changer. Its influence can be seen in spy thrillers to this day. The hero, Richard Hannay, was a solid, brave, patriotic man, adept at disguises, who could speak four or five languages. It must be said, though, that he relied an awful lot on luck and coincidence and was not the sharpest blade in the knife-throwing act. He was the hero of a new sort of thriller, which — unlike the detective story — did not revolve around what had happened in the past, but what was going to happen next …

In 1920, the year in which Agatha Christie published *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, which initially earned her £25 on the sale of 2,000 copies, the latest "prince of thriller writers," Edward Phillips Oppenheim published *The*

*Great Impersonation*, which quickly sold one million copies and allowed the author to relocate to the French Riviera. It's remarkably readable — if, that is, one can get past the casual racism of the first section, set in German East Africa in 1914. The plot will not surprise anyone who has read *The Prisoner of Zenda*.

Oppenheim left one strong legacy, for all the trappings of envy he gave his heroes — money, beautiful women, fast cars, yachts, luxury hotels, even monogrammed hand-made cigarettes — which were to become the trademarks of a certain James Bond in the austere 1950s.

The exploits of Bulldog Drummond, by H.C. ("Sapper") McNeile, set the pattern for the tough gentleman adventurer — or, as Cecil Day-Lewis called him, the "unspeakable public-school bully." Drummond's name is still remembered, though that of Tiger Standish, created by the once hugely popular Sydney Horler is quite forgotten.

In the 1930s, Francis Beeding (Hilary St George and John Leslie Palmer) wrote eighteen thrillers featuring spymaster Alistair Granby. Unlike most of their predecessors, both authors had a working knowledge of international politics, having worked for the League of Nations in Geneva. The spread of fascism and genuine political tensions were essential elements in the stories.

We should mention four authors who made important and lasting contributions to the genre: Somerset Maugham with his "Ashenden" stories, Graham Greene, Eric Ambler, and Geoffrey Household. Sherlock Holmes would certainly have found kinship with Ashenden; been rightly suspicious of many a Graham Greene character and amused by Eric Ambler's left-wing leanings; and probably admired the tenacity and physical fortitude of Geoffrey Household's anonymous hero in *Rogue Male*.

The war and the ensuing Cold War breathed new life into the spy thriller, and one could say that a second "Golden Age" began in 1953, with Ian Fleming's *Casino Royale* — the book which one critic said, "put the blood and thunder, especially the blood, back into the thriller."

So, what sort of a spy would Sherlock Holmes have made? He was certainly no stranger to the wiles of espionage, and of course it helps the spy-catcher if his brother can supply a list of the names and addresses of all the foreign agents in England. In "The Bruce-Partington Plans," Holmes' disgust on discovering that "an English gentleman" could sell secrets to a foreign power is perfectly understandable, and his outrage would be shared by his contemporaries in spy fiction. Half a century later, following the revelations about Burgess, Maclean, Philby, and Blunt, he might not have been so shocked by treachery in the upper classes. The ending of that story, the trapping of

the foreign agent, is not unlike the climax of *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, and Holmes might have found in George Smiley a spy he could get on with.

Holmes was a master of disguise, of course, and he had one thing which most fictional spies lack: a Watson. Spies tend to have "handlers" or "controllers" who brief them on their missions; otherwise they tend to be lone wolves.

"In his day and within his own rules of engagement, Sherlock was a credible fictional spy and his stories are still read today, whereas the massive bestsellers (in their day) of Le Queux and Oppenheim, are blissfully forgotten. Thus one could say that Sherlock Holmes had that absolute essential quality when it comes to being the perfect spy: he survived."

After two years relying on Zoom to watch the films on our own computers, we gathered at the National Liberal Club on November 15 for the 2022 Annual Film Evening. It was a particular pleasure to have the maestro, Matthew J. Elliott, with us in person to present the show he called One Detective, Two Lands. First we saw the grandly-titled 1935 *The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes*, starring Arthur Wontner in his fourth appearance as the great detective. It's by far the better of the two extant movies based on *The Valley of Fear*, though the inevitable contemporary setting works against it. The relationship between Wontner's Holmes and Ian Fleming's Watson is perfectly acceptable, and of course Wontner looks the part exactly. Roy Emerton is a powerful Boss McGinty, and Lyn Harding, though he looks nothing like Holmes's description in "The Final Problem," is no less powerful as Professor Moriarty.

The second feature was an episode from the recent Japanese series *Sherlock: Untold Stories*, which expands on various of the cases mentioned but not recorded in the canon. The setting is modern-day Tokyo, and the protagonists are Shishio Homare (the Holmes-equivalent, played by Dean Fujioka) and his partner Junichi Wakamiya (played by Takanori Iwata). I was impressed enough that I want to see more of the series.

We must end the 2022 summary on a sad note. Nicholas Utechin died on August 17. Nick joined the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1966, at the age of 14. He received the Irregular Shilling and the title of "The Ancient British Barrow," BSI in 1975. The following year he began his thirty-year term as Editor of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*. His Holmesian knowledge was immense, and he was always ready to learn something new. He wrote, edited, advised, and organised so much for the Society and for the BSI that his benign influence will be felt for decades to come. And he was related to Basil Rathbone!

Thank you, Nick.

# SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2022

*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. 2023" in the 2024 *Baker Street Almanac*, please contact me at Sweeper887@gmail.com. — *Monica Schmidt*[*]

## CALIFORNIA

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

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|---|---|
| January 15, 2022 | Lost In New York With A Bunch Of Sherlockians |
| March 12, 2022 | Sherlock Holmes Face-To-Face |
| July 9, 2022 | The Illustrious Client Medal Quiz |
| October 29, 2022 | Holmes For Halloween |

The Curious Collectors of Baker Street (CCOBS) has been presided over by Jerry Kegley, BSI and Chrys Kegley, BSI as Tin Boxes/Presidents since its founding in 1990. They traditionally hold 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.

The Baker Street Irregulars weekend festivities for January of 2022 were back in a somewhat understated manner in the still Covid-cautious environment we found ourselves in. An abbreviated schedule still left plenty of time to connect with friends and reconnect in a more personal way. The annual BSI Dinner was highlighted by the investiture of two of the CCOBS's very own, Aaron Rubin (The Amethyst Snuffbox) and Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves (Toby). The Tin Boxes (Chrys and Jerry Kegley) hosted the very irregular "Lost In New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner on Saturday the 15th at its new venue, The Playwright, bidding a fond and somewhat melancholy adieu to an unfortunate casualty of Covid, the much-loved O'Lunney's Times Square Pub. The wonderful hospitality, good food, and grand fun we had at The Playwright bodes well for a new and long-standing relationship with "Lost."

March, found the Collectors hosting their first Southern CA based in-person meeting with the aptly named "Sherlock Holmes Face To Face" event held at the Smokehouse in Burbank. Aaron Rubin, BSI took us along for the ride as he presented "My Road to Baker Street." Canonical toasts were

[*] These authors have retained copyright in their reports: Basford, Brydges, Colbert, Coppola, Dobry, Haile, Hein, Hunt, McGovern, Morris, Musial, Postovit, Reynolds, Solberg, and Weiner.

raised by David Pleger to Dr. Watson, Randy Thompson to Mr. Sherlock Holmes, Maggie and Robert Schpak to the return of the CCOBS, and Beth Gallego to ACD, "the founder of the feast." Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves, BSI was the night's second presenter and, like Aaron, she had been asked to give a talk on her Sherlockian life. Joanne provided a glimpse of her coast-to-coast pilgrimage with "Back from the Future: Sherlockian Reflections."

July found the CCOBS holding their 28th Annual Medal Quiz event at Mimi's Bistro & Bakery in L.A. Canonical toasts were raised by Meredith Taylor (Dr. Watson), Elvin Lindholm (Sherlock Holmes), Jeff Hart, BSI (Kitty Winter and Porky), and Willis Frick (ACD, The Founder of the Feast). Beth Gallego had our undivided and spellbound attention with her presentation on "An Irresistible Fascination: Historical Hypnotism and Gruner's Post-Hypnotic Influence." Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves, BSI, took center stage to confound the participants with her Canonical conundrum on Illustrious Client. In a hard-fought battle of nerve and knowledge Meredith Taylor edged out Aaron Rubin, BSI for the win with Jeff Hart, BSI taking 3rd place.

The CCOBS returned to the Smokehouse in October for "Holmes for Halloween." John Goodwin paid tribute to Dr. Watson. Aaron Rubin's homage to Sherlock Holmes was a treat. Chrys Kegley presented an Ode to Halloween. Coleen Hefley guided the spirit of ACD to us in her acknowledgment of The Founder of the Feast. The event's guest speaker, John Rabe, assisted by his sister Joan, and a host of voices from the past, provided colorful, heartfelt, and sometimes humorous information and insight into their Baker Street Irregular father's Sherlockian history and connection with "Bill Rabe was no Commonplace Voice of Baker Street." After dinner and dessert, the quiz on Sussex Vampire followed. Meredith Taylor and Maggie Schpak tied for first place, with John Goodwin and Beth Gallego in second and third place respectively.

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

Until next time, keep those Holmes fires burning.

*The Deerstalkers of Monterey Bay — Maxine Reneker*

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| September 30, 2022 | Inaugural Meeting, The World of Sherlock Holmes |
| November 1, 2022 | Discussion of "The Musgrave Ritual" |
| December 8, 2022 | Discussion of "Silver Blaze" |

The Deerstalkers of Monterey Bay is a new scion society on the Monterey peninsula in California. Started in the late fall of 2022, it is a literary society which welcomes all people interested in Sherlock Holmes.

The first meeting was held in Monterey on September 30th 2022. After a reading of Vincent Starrett's 221B, the members listened to an audio reading of Arthur Conan Doyle's preface to *The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes.* They then shared their interest in Sherlock Holmes, and their experiences, if any, with other scion societies. Maxine Reneker gave a brief introduction to The World of Sherlock Holmes, describing the Baker Street Irregulars, various scion societies and some of their activities; online resources; the Baker Street Journal and the Sherlock Holmes Journal published by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, notable collections of Sherlockiana; and other publications and web sites devoted to the Canon. The members chose the name, The Deerstalkers of Monterey Bay, and decided to meet monthly to discuss a story from the Canon. Michael Kean, Wiggins in the BSI, described some of the history and activities of the Baker Street Irregulars. There were eight attendees at this inaugural meeting, enjoying a lovely British ambience with refreshments of tea in British porcelain and autumn treats.

The second meeting was held on November 1st. The Musgrave Ritual was the story discussed. John Durein, a member of the BSI, read his paper on "Mathematically Musgrave." He also told the group about some of the activities of The Diogenes Club, a longtime scion here on the Monterey peninsula. A lively discussion followed on tracing the path of the Ritual, the character of Brunton, and the fate of the ladies in the story. There were seven attendees.

On December 8th, the Deerstalkers discussed Silver Blaze. Katherine Sinacor posed some questions related to the story, and Michael Kean presented a few comments about its publication in the UK and the USA. The possibility of creating a web page for the scion was raised. The scion members agreed that such a website would increase its presence in the community and provide information about its activities. It would also have a member-only section accessible to scion members. Sally Chapman and Roy Reneker volunteered to explore its development. Refreshments were tea and trifle. There were eight attendees at the home of Maxine Reneker.

Point of Contact: Maxine Reneker mreneker@pacbell.net.

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

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| January 8, 2022 | Dinner Meeting |
| March 12, 2022 | Dinner Meeting |
| May 14, 2022 | Dinner Meeting |
| July 9, 2022 | Dinner Meeting |
| August 13, 2022 | Viewing of Holmesian Films |
| September 10, 2022 | Dinner Meeting |
| October 8, 2022 | Viewing of Holmesian Films |
| November 12, 2022 | 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.

To the delight of traditionalists everywhere, the Diogenes Club has returned from the Great Covid Hiatus with a full program of meetings in 2022. Presentations this year included Mr. John Durein reprising a paper given by his father Ted in 1997, "Sherlock Holmes and His Newspapers." Mr. Marc Winquist regaled the Club with more on Holmes' preferred imbibements, Mr. Michael Doherty presented evidence of Holmes' belief in the Almighty, and Mr. Terry Spitz continued the journalistic theme by presenting on Holmes' use of "Fake News" to lull the suspicions of criminals.

Sadly, our Oldest Member, Mr. Charles Winge, went over Reichenbach this past fall. Also known as Mycroft, Mr. Winge had been with the Club since shortly after its founding in 1971 and had missed only one meeting prior to his demise. His scurrilous jokes will be missed by all.

In August, a number of UnClubbables met for a light dinner and viewed the restored 1915 William Gillette silent film "Sherlock Holmes." They met again in October for Basil Rathbone in "The Scarlet Claw." Though the

only tuxedoes to be seen were printed on t-shirts, there is a chance that these low-key even-monthed meetings may become a new tradition.

Canonical study this year included "Thor Bridge," "The Yellow Face," "The Illustrious Client," "The Naval Treaty," "The Stockbroker's Clerk," and "The Devil's Foot." Dr. Bill Berg's quizzes on these stories were, in his own words, "ridiculously easy,"

Sherlockian visitors to Monterey, California are invited to attend a meeting should they happen to be in the area on the second Saturday of an odd-numbered month. Please contact our Gasogene, Mr. Terry Spitz, for more information at tspitz1789@gmail.com.

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

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| January 2, 2022 | Knights meet via Zoom |
| March 7, 2022 | Knights meet via Zoom |
| May 2, 2022 | Knights meet via Zoom |
| May 30, 2022 | Knights meet in person |
| July 5, 2022 | Knights meet via Zoom |
| September 6, 2022 | Knights meet via Zoom |
| November 7, 2022 | 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 cutout in the shape of Holmes' profile wearing a deerstalker. Members meet on the first Monday night of every other month at the home of different members. The sundial is in the middle of the room, and placed on it are member pebbles/rocks, inscribed with name or initials, some with the dancing men cipher. At each meeting Starrett's poem, 221B, is read by the host, minutes are distributed and a quiz on an assigned story is given, with discussion following. After a show-and-tell session, refreshments are served.

Unfortunately, we could not meet in person for our regular meetings in 2022, 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 168th birthday of Sherlock via Zoom, rather than at a local restaurant. January is the month for the election of officers: Master Caster (he/she who casts the longest shadow, Amanuensis (secretary and reporter), Cox & Co. (treasurer), and the Hans Sloane of Our Age (archivist). For 2022 the officers were:

Master Caster: Randall Stock

Amanuensis: Marc Kaufman

Cox & Co.: Cade Deverell

Hans Sloane of Our Age: Maxine Reneker

The regular format of the January meeting was replaced by a group (members sequentially) reading of "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle," a tradition started by the Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco, when the Holiday Inn in Union Square had a replica of Sherlock Holmes' sitting room on the top floor. Because we met by Zoom, there was no goose dinner (alas!).

At the March meeting, the OGT (Old Guaiacum Test) on "The Red-Headed League" was presented by Cade Deverell. Book report by Maxine Reneker, on *The Return of the Pharaoh* by Nicholas Meyer.

The May quiz on "A Case of Identity" was presented by Katherine Doar. May also found us meeting in person for lunch at a local British pub.

The July quiz on "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" was presented by Marc Kaufman. Randall Stock gave a review of Vicki Delany's *Sherlock Holmes Bookshop* series. Randall is the proprietor of https://www.bestofsherlock.com.

The September quiz was by Marsha Pollak on "The Five Orange Pips." Book report was for *Holmes and Watson Country: Travels in Search of Solutions* by Bernard Davies, published by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

Finally, the November quiz from Amy Buckley was "The Man with the Twisted Lip". Book report by Randall Stock on *The Strange Case of the Dutch Painter* by Timothy Miller.

We were all very hopeful that 2023 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*

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| January 8, 2022 | Happy Birthday Sherlock Holmes — via Zoom |
| May 15, 2022 | Spring meeting — via Zoom |
| October 22, 2022 | Autumn meeting — via Zoom |

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. 2022 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 Russell Merritt, BSI, on the topic "Milverton at the Movies: The Blackmail King and the New Watson." The meeting was recorded, and can be obtained by request to McMurdo@Scowrers.org

Our speaker for May was Randall Stock, BSI, on "Behind the Scenes of The Solitary Cyclist: its history and manuscript," followed by a quiz presented by member Cade Deverell. This meeting was also recorded.

Finally, our October speaker was Nancy Holder, BSI, speaking on "Happy Holmes Halloween! Real Creepers, Canonical and Otherwise." This meeting was also recorded.

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

*The Holmes' Hounds' Sherlock Holmes Society (Jackson) — Linda Hein and Beth Barnard*

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| January 6, 2022 | Winter meeting: "Charles Augustus Milverton" |
| March 1, 2022 | Spring meeting: Holmes's Hunt |
| March 19, 2022 | Zoom discussion: "The Six Napoleons" |
| May 3, 2022 | Spring meeting #2: "The Three Students" |

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| July 2022 | No meeting due to wildfire |
| September 2022 | No meeting due to excessive heat |
| November 1, 2022 | Winter meeting: "The Golden Pince-Nez" |

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, when Holmes' Hounds always meet on January 6. Beth Barnard is the Gasogene, Linda Hein the Tantalus, and Joe Svec the Commissionaire. A canonical story is discussed at every meeting, with questions submitted by our member Wiggins. Meetings give members opportunities to present their characters to the membership. When they have done so, they receive the Holmes' Hounds Society Pin. In March of every year, the annual Holmes' Hunt takes place within our 10,000-square-foot building. The three-story edifice (Hein & Company Bookstore, Baker Street West, and Hein & Company Estate Sales) is used in imaginative ways to conduct a hunt with teams who search for clues (rhymes, puzzles, invisible ink!) amid books, antiques, and hidden spaces.

In January of 2022, Holmes' Hounds met with the usual number of approximately 30 members and discussed "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton." After a most vigorous discussion, the membership settled in to play Sherlockian Pictionary. Sir Robert Norberton (Van Wilhite) of Shoscombe Old Place presented his character in poetry and received his Society Pin.

March of 2022 brought Holmes' Hunt based on "The Six Napoleons." Attendee members were "broken" into six competing teams. Each team was given a rhyming clue card that, when solved, would take them to an Italian-themed location in the building where they would find another clue card leading to a second location. At the third location, they would find a card directing them to an array of six identical busts of Napoleon (made of blown eggs with googly eyes and Napoleonic hats) where they were to guess which bust contained the Black Pearl of the Borgias. When all four groups were finished investigating, each team broke an eggshell, and the pearl was revealed in the winning Napoleon. The other Napoleons contained a note with the location where a bust was broken in the canon story. The winning group's name, The Green Carbuncles, is memorialized on the perpetual plaque in The Wolf & Bear Pub.

Holmes' Hounds also held a Zoom discussion on Saturday, March 19 examining "The Six Napoleons" with the help of Robert Katz, BSI. At that session, Holmes' Hounds members, Godfrey Norton and Mary Sutherland (Cedric Clute and Jan Clute), presented their memories of Dean Dickensheet (Jan's cousin) and Anthony Boucher (friend of both).

In May, the membership discussed "The Adventure of the Three Students." Afterward, Sherlockian Balderdash and Sherlockian Bingo were played.

The July meeting was cancelled due to excessive smoke from the nearby Electra Fire. And our September meeting was cancelled due to excessive heat (108 degrees!).

In November, the membership discussed "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez." Wiggins (Andy Rodriguez) presented his character and received his society pin. Inspector Stanley Hopkins (Mike Morrison) gave his character presentation and received his society pin.

For more information on Holmes' Hounds, please contact Mrs. Hudson at info@bakerstreetwest.com or call 209-223-2215.

## CONNECTICUT

*Cheshire Sherlock Holmes Society (Cheshire) — Andrew Tranquilli*

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| February 17, 2022 | Zoom meeting featuring *A Study in Scarlet* |
| March 17, 2022 | Zoom speaker Derrick Belanger on Solar Pons, discussion of "The Adventure of the Late Mr. Faversham", |
| April 21, 2022 | Hybrid meeting on *The Sign of Four* |
| May 19, 2022 | Hybrid meeting on "The Red-Headed League" |
| June 16, 2022 | Hybrid meeting on "A Case of Identity" |
| July 21, 2022 | Hybrid meeting on "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" |
| August 18, 2022 | Hybrid meeting on "The Five Orange Pips" |
| September 15, 2022 | Hybrid meeting on "The Man with the Twisted Lip" |
| October 20, 2022 | Harrowing Halloween Hybrid meeting on "The Sussex Vampire," "Selecting a Ghost," and "The Terror of Blue John Gap" |
| November 17, 2022 | Sherlock Holmes on Screen (screened the John Barrymore restored film) |
| December 15, 2022 | Hybrid meeting — John C. Sherwood reads and comments on his "The Speckled Band" essay from the book *About Sixty* edited by Christopher Redmond |

The Cheshire Sherlock Holmes Society of CT was founded in 2016 by Andy Tranquilli (Inspector Lestrade) and has met monthly for 80 meetings since that time. We started 2022 with Zoom meetings and moved on to hybrid Zoom/in-person meetings, which has enabled several of our members to join us from a distance. Over six years we have discussed every story in the Canon, the Apocrypha, other Doyle stories and novels, Auguste Dupin, Solar Pons, pastiches, and Sherlockian scholarship.

Andy Tranquilli at Woolsey Hall, Yale University, New Haven, site of ACD's May 8, 1922 lecture. Photo by Sharon M. Foster, CSHS member.

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At our March meeting, Derrick Belanger of Belanger Books introduced us to Solar Pons. We invested him as "The Book Merchant." Diane Calabro (the Cheshire Town Historian) was invested as "The Historian of This Bunch" (VALL). Diane wrote an article for the local papers on Conan Doyle's 1922 lecture at Woolsey Hall in New Haven and about the activities of the Cheshire scion. She has also delivered presentations on ACD, the KKK, and Victorian women this year. Shirley Brady received the investiture of "Norbury" at our November meeting and was given the mission of whispering 'Norbury' in Andy's ear when he is "giving less pains to a case than it deserves."

In May, Jose (Gasogene) and Aida Rodriguez gave a presentation on their visit to the *Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects* exhibition. Jerrold Rubak (Mr. James Dodd) delivered a talk on ACD and Colonialism in September. Danna Mancini (Mycroft Holmes) gave us an encore of the Leon Sterndale Lecture at the anniversary meeting of The Cornish Horrors titled "Who Else Knew:

An Investigation of Certain Criminals, and How They Studied the Master's Methods," also published in the Proceedings of Pondicherry Lodge.

The Harrowing Halloween Hybrid Meeting was held in October. We read and discussed "Selecting a Ghost: The Ghosts of Goresthorpe Grange" by ACD. A ghostly applicant (Jeffery Glazier) for the title of official scion ghost entertained us with his amusing resume at the meeting while disguised as the ghost of Dr. Wilbur Moore, the original owner of house converted to the Cheshire Senior Center, our meeting place.

If you would like more information about our scion, please email tranquilli @hotmail.com.

*The Men on the Tor (Trumbull) — Greg Darak*

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| June 5, 2022 | Henry Whitfield State Museum, Guilford Mooring, Guilford, CT — "The Musgrave Ritual" |
| October 16, 2022 | The Submarine Force Museum, Groton, CT, Filomena's, Waterford, CT — "The Bruce-Partington Plans" |

The Men on the Tor was founded by Harold and Theodora Niver in 1977. After running the scion for 33 years, the Nivers retired and passed the leadership of the group on to Greg Darak and Mike Berdan. The group generally holds two meetings a year, one in the spring and one in the fall,

Built in 1639, the Henry Whitfield House in Guilford, Connecticut is the oldest stone house in New England, and was large enough to be used as a fort by the early settlers. It seemed as close a match as the state could provide to the ancient manor house of Hurlstone, the site of the mysterious doings in "The Musgrave Ritual," which also dated back to the 1600s. This led the scion to plan its spring meeting there, where we could perform a recreation of the ritual.

At first, we wondered how much we would have to adjust the ritual to fit the house. Amazingly enough, it did not have to be adjusted at all. Starting near the southwest corner of the house, "north by ten and by ten" brought us to the northwest corner, "east by five and by five" brought us to the northeast corner of a wing of the house, "south by two and by two" led us to a place in the side of the house where an old entrance had clearly been walled up, and, after going inside the building, we saw that "west by one and by one" from the previous spot placed us right above a grate looking down into a basement — "and so under."

Twenty-one Sherlockians gathered at the Whitfield House on June 5. A museum guide provided a brief historical overview before everyone went through its three stories, viewing the furnishings and exhibits. We then all

stepped outside for the recreation of the ritual, followed by a talk from Danna Mancini on the different methods of measuring steps and pacing.

Afterwards, we reconvened at a seafood restaurant, Guilford Mooring, where The Men on the Tor had its first indoor restaurant meeting since before the pandemic. Toasts were given by Bob Stek (Rituals), Vickie Wittman (Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee), and John Sherwood (Irene Adler). John was also given the investiture of "A Times Leader." Short presentations were delivered by Greg Darak ("Solution to a Musgrave Mystery") and Mike Berdan ("Where Were the Shadows? All Over the Ritual").

The quiz was won by John Sherwood, with Jose Rodriguez and Isabel Rathbone coming in second and third. Vickie Wittman contributed a Word Search game, which was won by Greg Darak, Mike Berdan, and Isabel Rathbone.

For our Fall meeting, we gathered at The Submarine Force Museum in Groton CT, where we toured the USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered sub, and one of the Bruce-Partington submarine's most notable descendants. The museum also held many other sub-related exhibits and artifacts, including a life-size replica of the world's first submersible, the Turtle from the Revolutionary War.

After touring the Museum, everyone drove across the Thames River to nearby Waterford. Since Holmes and Watson had dined at Goldini's in the course of the adventure, it was only fitting that we also dined at an Italian restaurant, Filomena's. A total of 27 Sherlockians enjoyed the use of a private room for our formal meeting.

Toasts were given by Kate Karlson (Cadogan West), Joseph Savage (Ships and Friendship), Mike Berdan ("God Save the King"), Greg Darak (Mycroft), and Bob Madison (Hugo Oberstein).

Then we had a new event, a show-and-tell where people displayed rare or unusual items from their personal collections. Among the highlights were a handwritten postcard from Arthur Conan Doyle (Jose Rodriguez), authentic WW I submarine photograph albums and books (Michael Barton), an 1887 Christmas annual — unfortunately not Beeton's (Mike Berdan), and autographs of Jeremy Brett and Leonard Nimoy (Vickie Wittman). Vickie also told how, at an autograph session, the actress Marina Sirtis was somewhat thrown by being asked not a question about Star Trek, but, "What was it like working with Jeremy Brett?"

The lead presentation, "Plans, Patents, and Periscopes," was delivered by Danna Mancini, and went into the details of exactly what kind of documents had been stolen by Col. Valentine Walter, and how he had managed to remove them.

John Sherwood gave a report on the recent cleaning of the graves of William and Helen Gillette at Riverside Cemetery in Farmington, with which he had been involved.

The quiz was won by Jose Rodriguez, with Isabel Rathbone and Tom Sullivan coming in second and third. Danna Mancini gave all attendees a special Bruce-Partington themed coaster.

Unknown to us when we scheduled the meeting, it turned out that October 16th was the 83rd birthday of our scion's co-founder, Harold Niver. He and his wife Theodora (the other co-founder) were at the meeting, so we had a surprise birthday cake, and Danna Mancini presented him with a unique Sherlockian Men on The Tor card case.

It was only fitting that the birthday honoree be the person to read Vincent Starrett's 221B, which closed the meeting and The Men on the Tor's 46th year.

## HAWAII

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

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| February 12, 2022 | Zoom Meeting featuring Rich Krisciunas |
| May 14, 2022 | Zoom Meeting featuring Dr. Russell Merritt, BSI |
| August 13, 2022 | Zoom Meeting featuring Cenarth Fox |
| November 12, 2022 | Zoom Meeting featuring Roger Johnson, BSI |

The Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii was founded in 2020 by current Gasogene, Joe Page. Hawaii is officially composed of eight 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 initial guest speaker. 2022 meetings were hosted by the Gasogene and co-hosted by Steve Mason, BSI, who is Third Mate (President) of The Crew of the Barque Lone Star in Texas. Efforts were made to limit meetings to no more than one hour. Each was opened and closed with an enthusiastic Aloha and a Sherlockian Shaka for all in attendance. New attendees were introduced with a Hawaiian Welcome (*E Komo Mai).* After brief general announcements, each guest speaker was in-

troduced, followed by a Q&A session. The 2022 guest speakers were top drawer and, without exception, extremely well-received. (NB: Videos of meetings are available online at www.shakasherlockian.com.) Following additional announcements of interest to Sherlockians, a challenging one-question Sherlockian Pop Quiz took place with a special prize for the first correct answer. 2022 winners included J. Andrew Basford, Howard Ostrom, Steve Mason, and Rich Krisciunas. 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 Sherlockian Shaka and Aloha.

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

## Illinois

*The Scotland Yarders (Chicago area) — Janice Weiner*

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|---|---|
| January 5, 2022 | Members discussed their recommendations for mystery series. |
| March 9, 2022 | Stephen Lee spoke on "Why Dr. Watson Lied and How Sherlock Holmes Defeated Moriarty." |
| May 11, 2022 | Show and tell from members' Sherlockian collections. |
| September 7, 2022 | Viewed a program about the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883. |
| November 12, 2022 | Holiday luncheon: Stephen Lee spoke on "Sherlock Holmes and the Art of Detection." |

The Scotland Yarders was founded in 1988. Over the years, for various reasons and due to the pandemic, we changed our meeting dates to varying Wednesdays from the original second Tuesdays in January, March, May, and September, with a holiday party in November. The party is our only event with a charge. We did have dues to be a member of the group, but they have been suspended. We gave up an informal summer July get-together at a suburban music venue due to changes in the venue's classical

music schedule. We started meeting at Scotland Yard Books (in a northern Chicago suburb), from which we 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, though we have gone back to in-person meetings for 2022. Our meetings have featured such things as: speakers, story discussions, quizzes, puzzles and games, and watching 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 members discussed recommendations for mystery series to read. A list was given out at the meeting and one was attached to the next newsletter. At the March meeting Stephen Lee spoke about the "silent conflict" between Holmes and Moriarty and how Dr. Watson might have depicted this conflict. Members showed off items from their Sherlockian collections at the May meeting. The Scotland Yarders watched a DVD about the 1883 eruption of Krakatoa. This was due to a question about what was going on in the world while Holmes lived. Our holiday luncheon was on November 12th. Stephen Lee spoke again, but on the topic of how to find facts of a situation, instead of being caught listening to hearsay, etc.

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

*The Hansoms of John Clayton (Peoria) — Brad Keefauver*

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|---|---|
| January 27, 2022 | Zoom discussion of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* |
| February 24, 2022 | Zoom discussion of *The Sign of the Four* |
| March 24, 2022 | Discussion of "The Man with the Twisted Lip" |
| April 28, 2022 | Discussion of *The Valley of Fear* |
| May 26, 2022 | Discussion of "The Final Problem" |
| June 23, 2022 | Discussion of "A Scandal in Bohemia" |
| July 28, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "Copper Beeches" |
| August 26, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Cardboard Box" |
| September 22, 2022 | Discussion of "The Man with the Twisted Lip" |
| October 27, 2022 | Discussion of "The Noble Bachelor" |
| November 17, 2022 | Discussion of "The Red-Headed League" |
| December 22, 2022 | Discussion of "The Blue Carbuncle" |

The Hansoms of John Clayton continued to keep Sherlockian discussion going in Peoria, Illinois this past year with its "Sherlock Holmes Story Society" Thursday nights at the North Branch of the Peoria Public Library, breaking free of Zoom in March to go back to live meetings. After one full rotation of the Canon and a "best of" year, the group decided to begin 2023 by reading Watson's tales in chronological order, starting with "Gloria Scott." Barring holidays, the group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30. More information can be had from bradkeefauver@comcast.net.

*The Criterion Bar Association — Franklin Saksena*

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| January 22, 2022 | Guest speaker — Franklin Saksena on "The Engineer's Thumb" |
| March 5, 2022 | Guest speaker — Augie and Tracy Aleksy: The Literary Sherlock Holmes |
| May 21, 2022 | Guest speaker — Brenda Rossini and Franklin Saksena: The Oscar Slater case |
| October 29, 2022 | Guest speakers — Stephen Lee: The Holmes/Moriarty conflict |

We had Zoom sessions in January to May 2022, and our first live session in October.

In January 2022, Dr. Franklin Saksena, MD gave a talk on "The Engineer's Thumb" in which he discussed normal thumb function and what its loss entails. Sometimes the great toe can be used as a thumb substitute. In March 2022. Augie and Tracy Aleksy gave a talk on the Literary Sherlock Holmes, indicating that he was well up in his Shakespeare, etc. The May 2022 meeting brought us a presentation about the Oscar Slater case by Brenda Rossini and Franklin Saksena. Franklin presented evidence that he was not guilty and Brenda stated he was guilty of murder. And in October 2022, Stephen Lee, an attorney, discussed the hidden conflict between Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty and why Watson lied. He provided us with a 97-page booklet explaining his reasoning. He was an excellent speaker.

The Criterion Bar association publishes a newsletter quarterly. I make up a new crossword puzzle and write a short essay in each issue (Forgeries and their detection, Holmes and bartitsu, Ears in the Canon, and Professor Moriarty). Quizzes are made up by other Board members for each issue.

For more information about The Criterion Bar Association, please email Franklin Saksena M.D., BSI at franklin.saksena@gmail.com.

*The Torists International, SS — Jonathan Shimberg*

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|---|---|
| March 27, 2022 | John Sherwood: Holmes's 10 Basic Rules |
| June 27, 2022 | Phil Cunningham: Mnemonic Framework to the Sherlockian Canon |
| September 27, 2022 | Don Izban: Exploring the Mind of Sherlock Holmes |
| December 27, 2022 | Linda Crohn: Is Sherlock Holmes a Foodie? |

2022 was another eventful year for The Torists International SS!

We started off the year with a Zoom meeting in March featuring Sherlock Holmes discussing his 10 Basic Rules. He was assisted in this endeavor by John Sherwood (BSI, as of January 2023). It was an amazing evening, and educational to all that attended.

Our June meeting was in person and featured Phil Cunningham, BSI. He spoke on his system of a Mnemonic Framework to the Sherlockian Canon. With charts and handouts, the former Chief Steward taught us his system for remembering the titles of every story of the Canon.

The September meeting featured the musings of Donald Izban, BSI, another former Chief Steward and one of the founders of our scion, on Exploring the Mind of Sherlock Holmes. A great talk by a man who never read the Canon. ;-)

Our final speaker was Linda Crohn. She posed the question "Is Sherlock Holmes a Foodie?"

As a whole, it was a challenging and educational year, which is a goal for any scion. We are in the midst of planning for 2023. For more information about The Torists International Sherlock Holmes Society, please contact Jonathan Shimberg at toristintss@gmail.com.

*The BeeSpeckled Band — Brenda Rossini*

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| March 2, 2022 | Zoom Discussion of *A Study in Scarlet* (part 1) |
| May 1, 2022 | Live Discussion of *A Study in Scarlet* (part 2) |
| July 26, 2022 | Live Discussion of *A Study in Scarlet* (part 3) |
| October 25, 2022 | Live Discussion of *The Sign of Four* (part 1) |
| December 6, 2022 | Live Discussion of *The Sign of Four* (part 2) |

The BeeSpeckled Band is proceeding apace.

Our Zoom discussions were well-attended and parting was truly such sweet sorrow, but the transition had to be made. Our live gatherings sputtered at first with lingering COVID fears, but we're all back, healthy and enthusiastic. BeeSpeckled Band meets, when live, every second month on the first

Tuesday evening, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45. Beforehand we meet for dinner.

In October, Ron Levitsky organized a "Holmesapalooza" in which we celebrated our having read and discussed all 56 short stories of the Canon. There were toasts, sparkling juices de Tantalus, fun quizzes (Musical Canonical Titles; Hidden Canonical Titles), and shared opinions. No one was anxious to participate in the "Are You There, Moriarty?" a game enjoyed by the Queen, when she was a girl, along with her sister, Margaret, and a few hapless courtiers.

December 6, we met to discuss the final chapters of SIGN, at which this writer read a short and apropos SIGN poem of "The Queen of Tonga," in honor of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Following the Canonical exercise, the group gathered around a Holiday table with treats and heavily fortified eggnog.

February 7, 2023, we will continue the live gathering and embark on a thoroughgoing discussion of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

At another discussion, Dr. Franklin Saksena (who once played chess against Bobby Fischer … and, sadly, lost) improved the attics of our brains with a discourse on the Battle of Maiwand. Another stalwart Bee, Maureen Mascha, a forensic accountant and college professor, is off on a year's sabbatical in Finland. We're confident she is not on border control.

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

For more information, please contact Brenda Rossini, agrrtig@aol.com.

*Chicago Baritsu Society — Xander Sobecki*

Originally gathered virtually during the 2020 lockdown without even a decided name for the group, the Chicago Baritsu Society had their inaugural meeting on Friday the 13th of January, 2023 and is awaiting delivery of their official charter. We emphasize we do not study "Bartitsu" by Edward Barton-Wright, but are seeking true sources of "Baritsu" itself as cited by Holmes via the Literary Agent. There are no records of any such martial art, but we're staying optimistic and having a good time discussing the Canon during our search.

Meeting in an undisclosed speakeasy-styled location, the CBS was founded to address a unique need. While few cities can match the historical impact and number of Sherlockian organizations that Chicago has, the famed scions have long since migrated to the outer suburbs and are not easily accessible by Chicagoans who rely on public transportation or can't make the drive due to

our infamous commuter traffic. Thus, a group was created right next to the CTA train line. It also was placed near a surplus of free parking, pubs, bars, and late-night eateries to keep the conversations going as long as possible.

Starting in 2023, we shall be meeting quarterly, with our first gathering introducing members to the Literary Agent's history as well as the founding of the BSI and its impact worldwide. Future sessions will open with a discussion of a selected short-story to share our findings and reflections, mixed in with presenters on the Canon and related topics of expertise as we reach out throughout the city.

Traveling Sherlockians who don't mind signing an NDA regarding our eccentric meeting location are welcome to attend our sessions, reach out to chicagobaritsusociety@gmail.com to make introductions.

*Hugo's Companions (Chicago area) — Terry McCammon*

Hugo's Companions meets sporadically, at a time and place directed by Sir Hugo. For details, email to Terry McCammon, BSI, terry.w.mccammon@gmail.com.

*Chester Baskerville Society — Michael McClure*

The Chester Baskerville Society was the natural result of a Chester, Illinois family's intense, decades-long interest in Sherlock Holmes. The society was formally established in October 1988 by Michael W. and Susan McClure to give the southern Illinois region a local avenue to experience the joys of Sherlockian comradery, silliness, and scholarship. Quarterly meetings were held to discuss either one of the novels or two of the shorter stories that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle published. We have covered the entire Canon multiple times while also hosting creative celebrations of anniversary events and film releases. Each regular meeting consists of the latest news, a movie of one of the stories to be discussed, and several papers (both scholarly and satirical) that always generate a goldmine of interesting discussion, and usually solve all of the world's problems at the same time! A smorgasbord of edibles and libations are prepared by Lady Baskerville, much to the delight of our society members. It's not a bad deal for the annual price of the cost of a cup of air.

Our meetings have been sporadic these last two years, with Covid imposing its unforgiving restrictions, plus the fact that our Baskerville Hall was repurposed as the recovery room for our son, Michael II, after his fourth open-heart surgery. We expect a full return to the normalcy of regularly scheduled nonsense in 2023.

The Baskervilles have nonetheless been extremely busy spreading the love for the Master and his publisher throughout the world! Our creation of

*The Original Sherlock Holmes and his Baker Street Irregulars* tabletop board game in late 2020 found us delivering over 1000 copies of this exciting and extremely well-received game to 42 different countries! We have several foreign companies interested in translating it into their own languages, and are thrilled at the sheer volume of patrons that are enjoying the fruits of our labor … but is it really "work" when it is sooooo much fun?

Presently Michael's annotated version of The Speckled Band is a top seller in the UK market. Many of the purchasers are buying it in quantities that seem to indicate it is being used in school curriculums. One customer, showing extremely good taste, purchased 204 copies.

Our current tabletop game being developed is in homage to the world of Magic. It pays tribute to the Master magicians of the last two centuries, but also the Legendary and Mythic roots of the Art. The unique reward for playing the game is recorded, live action magic tutorials, some of which will teach many Sherlock Holmes themed magic effects that anyone could perform at scion meetings or even combine to create an entire act for the public. Projected release for *Master to Mythics* is fall of 2023.

Since the erection of the only granite life-size Sherlock Holmes statue next to our Baskerville Hall, we have had thousands of tourists visit the memorial and the other statues in the Popeye & Friends Character Trail. Paddlewheel boats brings tourists to our river port, and Michael gives bus tours of the various statues, but the greatest interest these visitors show is in the Popeye statue and that of Sherlock Holmes. The geocaching treasure hunt climaxes with special gifts at the feet of the Master, since the last stop is our Sherlock statue. It is great fun to share the excitement of our tourists and see that his memory will remain green for a long time to come.

Michael recently was asked to give a Popeye and Holmes presentation to one of his other scions, The Bootmakers of Toronto. The international attendees seemed genuinely amazed at the depth that Popeye's creator, Elzie Segar, had presented Sherlock Holmes to the fans of the one-eyed sailor. Segar was indeed one of the earliest Sherlockians, and promoted the detective all over the world. It seems this is a mission that keeps repeating itself in our little community.

All of our endeavors can be found, and current projects are still open for others to participate, no matter where they might live, by visiting www.baskervilleproductions.com or by dropping Michael a line at watson7654321@gmail.com.

## INDIANA

*The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis — Steven T. Doyle*

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| January 22, 2022 | The Victorian Dinner |
| February 26, 2022 | *The Sign of Four* |
| April 9, 2022 | "A Scandal in Bohemia" |
| May 14, 2022 | Sherlockian Auction |
| June 25, 2022 | Sherlockian Film Meeting |
| August 6, 2022 | Field Trip to Bloomington, IN for "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" |
| September 17, 2022 | "The Red-Headed League" |
| November 5, 2022 | "A Case of Identity" |
| December 10, 2022 | "The Blue Carbuncle" |

The Victorian Dinner, January 22 — Church of the Nativity Community Room: On January 22 we kicked off the calendar year with 33 in attendance in person, and seven members and guests attending in the hybrid Zoom window. We held our annual officer election, and with no contested offices, all candidates were affirmed via voice vote. Other notable events included the inauguration of the Clients' YouTube Channel, a report on the just-held BSI weekend in New York City, and the presentation of a gift from New York Sherlockian Ira Matetsky, which was a letter from Frederic Dannay (better known as half of Ellery Queen) replying to a letter from our teenaged Jerry Williamson. This letter now resides in the Clients' archives. Andy and Shelly Gage received the "Study in Service" award for their work on the Clients' history video recording. Traditional toasts were offered throughout the night, Mike Schaefer offered another one of his popular picture quizzes, we auctioned off a rare copy of the Clients' Case-Notes, and Ann Lewis led us in song.

Dinner Meeting, February 26 — The University Club — *The Sign of Four*: In February we gathered at the University Club for a meeting devoted to *The Sign of Four*. We had around 30 in-person attendees and 7 Zoom members in the house. It was here that we announced our decision to assemble and publish our new book, *The Illustrious Clients' Third Case-Notes*, with Andy and Shelly Gage as editors. Sherlockian "Show and Tell" followed, and toasts were offered by Louise Haskett, Alan Schmetzer, Mark Walters, Pat Ward, and Steve Doyle. Steve Doyle then offered the next installment in our Sherlockian History Series Paper with history of Vincent Starrett and his landmark book *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*. Regina

Stinson offered a challenging quiz, and Mike Schaefer led a discussion of *The Sign of Four*. Kara Martin closed our meeting with Vincent Starrett's "221B."

Dinner Meeting, April 9 — Woodland Country Club — "A Scandal in Bohemia": We gathered at Woodland Country Club to delve into "A Scandal in Bohemia." One highlight came early when we again got to officially welcome a new member, this time Rudy Altergott, whose home scion is Hugo's Companions in Chicago. We followed this with announcements and "Sherlockian Show and Tell," and then canonical toasts were delivered. We saw toasts to Irene Adler, the King of Bohemia, Godfrey Norton, and Mrs. Turner, whoever she is! We then, as a club, voted on one of the vexing issues of our featured story … the proper pronunciation of the name "Irene." (The majority voted for eye-reen)! Andy and Shelly administered a quiz in crossword puzzle form, with Cal Wilson emerging as the winner. Ann Lewis spoke on the true nature of the relationship between Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler, concluding that it was "nothing akin to love," just as Dr. Watson stated. Ann was then interviewed on her Sherlockian life, offering an opportunity for all of us to get to know one of our favorite members better. Regina Stinson then read her poem, "A Scandal in Disguise," followed by a lively story discussion let by Larry VanArendonk. His wife Nancy closed out the night with "221B."

Sherlockian Auction Meeting, May 14 — American Legion, Zionsville, Indiana: "He Has the Collection Mania in its Most Acute Form." This is Sherlock Holmes's own evaluation of Baron Gruner from our namesake story. And this same statement could have been applied to us at our Sherlockian Auction! Every few years our membership donates items to our auction and this year we had a very large range of goods … shot glass display shelves, pipe rack cabinets, books, board games, a statue of the detective, more books, a Sherlock Deadpool Funko Pop, DVDs, and countless books. In fact, we had so much stuff that we couldn't even sell it all! Doors opened at noon with the first item going on the block at 12:30. Steve Doyle acted as auctioneer, and true bargains were had. The goal was to raise money for the printing of the new Case-Notes book, and we more than met that goal. By the end of the day we had realized more than $1,600.

Sherlockian Film Meeting, June 25 — American Legion, Zionsville, Indiana: It was on June 25 that 37 Illustrious Clients gathered for an afternoon of Sherlockian cinema. The first offering was from the 1989 television series Alfred Hitchcock Presents, entitled "My Dear Watson," starring Brian Bedford starred as Sherlock Holmes with Patrick Ponckton as Dr. Watson. Cal Wilson commented in the newsletter that "Something in this caper stinks,

and I don't mean the sewer gases." The second feature of the day was an episode from 1970s-era television series The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes, entitled "The Missing Witness Sensation." It first aired in 1971 and starred Robert Stephens as the blind detective Max Carrados. The main feature of the day was the rather wonderful 1983 adaptation of *The Sign of Four* starring Ian Richardson. Following this film, many of our members stayed for a barbeque buffet dinner to round out the event. There was one other event as well … a door prize drawing with the price being 100 back issues of the *Baker Street Journal*! This magnificent prize was won by Don Curtis II.

Illustrious Clients Field Trip / "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" — Bloomington, Indiana, The Lilly Library, Indiana University and The Irish Lion: Fate placed in our hands an absolutely tremendous event for this past year's annual Illustrious Clients Field Trip, a journey south on August 6 to Bloomington, Indiana for the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" exhibition that was held at the Lilly Library at Indiana University. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view some of the rarest items of Sherlockiana in the world, exhibited in a manner that told the history of Sherlock Holmes from his first appearance through to *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*. The exhibition was from the personal collection of Glen Miranker, who was on hand that day to discuss the exhibition. It was on August 6 that the Lilly held a Midwestern Scion Societies Open House, with direct outreach to all the scion societies in the Midwest. Sherlockians came from far and wide, from nine states and at least one foreign country … India!

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. was the window to view the exhibition.

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. featured a talk and Q&A session by Glen Miranker.

2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. was more open gallery viewing.

Following this, 50 Sherlockians regrouped at one of our favorite locations, The Irish Lion, for a joint meeting of The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis and our sister scion The Tankerville Club of Cincinnati. Our club presented Erika Dowell, Lilly Library Associate Director, with a check from the Clients for $221 as thanks for our special day to view the exhibition. There was an early dinner, and while there was no formal meeting, we opened the floor to the group for an amazing round of Sherlockian Show-and-Tell. It was an incredible thing to be in the room with such devoted and enthusiastic Sherlockians from around the midwest … an event not soon forgotten or topped. It finally ended with Marc Lehmann's splendid recitation of "221B" from memory.

Dinner Meeting, September 17 — Ulen Country Club, "The Red-Headed League": This meeting was led by our vice-president, Mike

Schaefer. We celebrated distinguished in-person attendees Erika Dowell of the Lilly Library and Glen Miranker, whose collection comprised the exhibition we enjoyed down in Bloomington. We also again had the pleasure of welcoming new members to the group …this time David and Kim Reynolds. Mike Schaefer gave an appropriate tribute to the just-departed Queen Elizabeth II. Toasts to Peter Jones, Mr. Merryweather, and John Clay followed, and then finally Don Curtis Sr. toasted his BSI Investiture namesake, Jabez Wilson. Louise Haskett administered a quiz on "The Red-headed League," and Shelly Gage, Mark Lehman, and Larry VanArendonk took home prizes. Mark Walters then gave a presentation that suggested the involvement of Professor Moriarty in the events of "The Red-headed League." He then led a spirited discussion of the story. Ultimately, the meeting was drawn to a conclusion with Cal Wilson's reading of "221B."

Dinner Meeting, November 5 — University Club — "A Case of Identity": The night started as always with announcements, and Sherlockian Show-and-Tell, highlighted by Mark Walters sharing a remarkable piece of history not only for the club, but for Steve Doyle as well. Mark located a program for the first Sherlockian conference put on by John Bennett Shaw in July of 1977 at the University of Notre Dame. A 16-year-old Steve Doyle was at that event. Toasts to James Windibank and his alter ego Hosmer Angel followed, as well as toasts to the Persian poet Hafiz, and a final toast to Mary Sutherland. Louise Haskett again conducted our quiz, and Cindy Baker came in first, with Mike Schaefer, Fabienne Courouge, and Shelly Gage tying for second place. We then went through the exercise known as "Would you Date your Step-Father?" Sadly, it seems most of the Clients would date their own stepfather, making the premise solid (and rather uncomfortable). At the end of the night, Andy Gage took us out with a reading of "221B."

Holiday Meeting, December 10 — Broadmoor Country Club — "The Blue Carbuncle": Our December Holiday celebration found us at Broadmoor Country Club. We celebrated the attendance of four visitors at the festivities, and then dove into announcements. The first was that our long-time newsletter editor Alisa West was stepping down after many years, and that Shelly Gage was stepping up to take on the editor's role. Other announcements followed, and then we were on to the toasts, which stretched throughout the dinner. Andy Gage gave a toast to the goose. Steve Doyle offered a toast to the hero of the story, James Ryder. Commissionaire Peterson was toasted by Ann Lewis. Breckinridge received praise from Regina Stinson, and Louise Haskett raised her glass to Henry Baker. Lib Thompson offered a toast to Mr. Windigate of the Alpha Inn, and the unfortunate Jack Horner received his pardon from Pat Ward. Finally, Mary Ann Bradley toasted the Blue

Carbuncle itself. Prizes were awarded. Joyce Mallet won split-the-pot, and Mike McSwiggin went home with a Christmas goose! Shelly and Andy Gage then administered another crossword puzzle quiz, and Regina Stinson came in first place. Before the story discussion, Ann Lewis led us in singing a number of Christmas Carbuncle Carols originally penned by our late friend, Meredith Granger. Mike Schaefer then led the story discussion, and the meeting was then closed out by Mel Hoffman reading Vincent Starrett's "221B."

For more information, please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/IllustriousClients.

*The 140 Varieties of Tobacco Ash — Steven T. Doyle*

| August 13, 2022 | Annual Dinner |
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The annual meeting of The 140 Varieties or Tobacco Ash was held on Saturday, August 13, 2022, with all the rites and rituals of the evening observed. We met in happy conclave, beginning with our custom-banded 140 cigars, at Havana cigar bar for pre-dinner cigars and cocktails. We then retired next door to the private meeting room in the 1933 Lounge, where we welcomed Mary Ann Bradley into the fold. It was a grand affair.

## IOWA

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

| January 10, 2022 | Sherlock birthday toasts with Sherlock Holmes cut out cookies. Watched How Sherlock Changed the World movie |
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| February 7, 2022 | "The Five Orange Pips," "Medical and Forensic Science in the Sherlock Holmes Stories," and "Sherlock Holmes's Paraphernalia," from The Mysterious World of Sherlock Holmes by Bruce Wexler |
| March 7, 2022 | "A Case of Identity" and "The Persecution of George Edalji," from The Real World Of Sherlock Holmes: the True Crimes Investigated by Arthur Conan Doyle by Peter Costello |
| April 4, 2022 | "The Red-Headed League," and The Case of Oscar Slater from The Real World of Sherlock Holmes: the True Crimes Investigated by Arthur Conan Doyle by Peter Costello and The Dates in the Red-Headed League by Dorothy L. Sayers |
| May 2, 2022 | "The Dying Detective" |

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| June 6, 2022 | "The Blue Carbuncle," "The Errant Knight," and "Why Miss Gilchrist Died," from The Real World of Sherlock Holmes by Peter Costello; Conan Doyle Speculates on Jack the Ripper summary by member, Michael Dyer |
| July 11, 2022 | "The Yellow Face" |
| September 12, 2022 | *The Valley of Fear* Part 1 and Chapter 16: Into the Valley of Fear: Crime in America from The Real World of Sherlock Holmes by Peter Costello and The Other Boarder by James Keddie from Baker Street By-Ways by James Edward Holroyd |
| October 3, 2022 | *The Valley of Fear* Part 2 |
| November 7, 2022 | "The Greek Interpreter" |
| December 5, 2022 | "The Copper Beeches" |

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 Baring-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 through March and October through December we met at the Bettendorf Public Library, masked. From April through September 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 his pipe. We toasted Sherlock's January 6 birthday. We also enjoyed the movie, How Sherlock Changed the World. Many months, while discussing the Canon, one of our members, Michael Dyer, also provided us with handouts to read and discuss. We always enjoyed the true crimes investigated by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and how much forensic science has learned from Sherlock Holmes.

We are always looking for new members, so if interested, send an email to Susan Perry at sgoody162@aol.com.

*The Iowa Valley of Fear (Marshalltown) — PJ Colbert*

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| May 18, 2022 | Spring meeting |
| October 21, 2022 | Autumn meeting |

The Iowa Valley of Fear had its first meeting at Marshalltown Community College in 1992. With a brief hiatus during Covid, we have met twice a year. The May 18 meeting at Elmwood Country Club marked our 30th anniversary. Retired faculty member and IVF member Kevin Cartier shared his experiences with "Dear Holmes," an interactive game set in Doyle's

London. PJ Colbert prepared the quiz over "A Scandal in Bohemia," along with 1992 and club trivia. Our fall meeting was held October 21 at Elmwood Country Club. IVF members Robert and Linda Moore presented a Readers' Theatre Karaoke, with all attendees performing parts. PJ Colbert wrote the quiz over "The Red-Headed League." Trivia and toasts wrapped up the evening.

For additional information, please email P.J.Colbert@iavalley.edu.

*The Younger Stamfords (Iowa City) — David Harnois*

The Younger Stamfords was founded by Dr. Richard (Dick) Caplan, MD, BSI, in 1988, and is currently headed by Monica Schmidt, ASH, BSI. Unfortunately, 2022 yielded no meetings, as many of our members were still hesitant to meet in person. Hopefully in 2023 Monica and David Harnois will be able to get at least one meeting under the group's belt. While the group didn't meet, that didn't mean the members were sitting idly by. Monica and David attended the 2023 BSI Weekend in New York, where David was invested in the BSI as "James Boswell."

For more information you can visit the group's website http://www.icsherlock.org, or contact Monica at YoungerStamfords@gmail.com.

*Theatre-Goers Homeward Bound — Monica Schmidt*

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| Various Saturdays | Many Sherlockian movies and television shows |

Movie screenings were held on Zoom on various Saturday afternoons throughout early 2022. Sherlockians from 7 different countries and 12 different time zones attended. The group went into a temporary hiatus starting in late spring 2022 while facilitator Monica Schmidt worked tirelessly on landscaping projects, playing cricket, and attending Sherlockian events.

For more information, please email Monica at either Sweeper887@gmail.com or YoungerStamfords@gmail.com.

## MARYLAND

*Watson's Tin Box (Ellicott City) — Stephanie Klein*

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| January 31, 2022 | Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting |
| February 28, 2022 | Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting |
| March 28, 2022 | Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting |
| April 25, 2022 | Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting |

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| May 23, 2022 | Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting |
| June 26, 2022 | The Mycroft |
| July 25, 2022 | Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting |
| August 29, 2022 | Scintillation of Scions XIV #SOSatHome |
| September 19, 2022 | Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting |
| October 31, 2022 | Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting |
| November 21, 2022 | Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting |
| December 26, 2022 | Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting |

In 2022, Watson's Tin Box continued to meet virtually via Zoom. We returned to our tradition of having a single Gasogene as opposed to the revolving Gasogene-of-the-Month model we had in 2021. Stephanie Klein (Tin Boxer since 2015) became Gasogene XXXII.

The Mycroft: In 2022, Tin Boxers celebrated the first in-person event since the start of the pandemic! The Mycroft is typically held in January but was postponed to June in 2022. We maintained our tradition of hosting the Killer Quiz, a 60-question themed quiz that covers every story in the canon. Our returning Torquemadas (quiz masters) Kim Ord and Karen Wilson developed this year's Mycroft.

In 2023, we look forward to much more well-mannered Sherlockian frivolity. See you in the new year!

*Sherlockians of Baltimore — Greg D. Ruby*

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| February 12, 2022 | Discussion of "Wisteria Lodge" and The Sitting Room at 221B Reading |
| April 2, 2022 | Discussion of "The Red Circle" and The Penang Lawyer |
| May 21, 2022 | Discussion of "The Dying Detective" and There's Something (more to be said) about Mary and That SOB Elementary Talk and the virtual 2022 Silver Blaze (Southern Division) |
| November 19, 2022 | Discussion of "The Engineer's Thumb" |

The Sherlockians of Baltimore were founded in 2016 and meet on an irregular quarterly basis. In 2022, we alternated between virtual and in-person meetings.

Our February 12 meeting was a virtual gathering and featured Edith Pounden leading a discussion regarding the Adventure of Wisteria Lodge. Denny Dobry also presented on his re-creation of Holmes's Sitting Room at 221b Reading.

The SOBs then met face-to-face on April 2 with a discussion of "The Red Circle" and Denny Dobry presenting "What is a Penang Lawyer."

The SOBs celebrated their sixth anniversary with a gala virtual celebration on May 21 that featured a discussion regarding "The Dying Detective" and two presentations. First, Ray Betzner presented "There's Something (More to be Said) about Mary" regarding the Sign of the Four while James C. O'Leary regaled attendees with "That SOB Elementary Talk." Since that day was also the 147th running of the Preakness Stakes, that race also doubled as the 36th running of the Silver Blaze (Southern Division), which was won by Early Voting, ridden by jockey Jose Ortiz.

The SOBs were proud to be one of the three sponsoring scions for the Saturday with Sherlock Holmes at the Enoch Pratt Free Library on Saturday, November 5. This year's program was the 43rd annual program to be held.

The in-person meeting on November 19 featured a story discussion on "The Engineer's Thumb."

Folks who lead story discussions or present programs to the SOBs are eligible to become Certified SOBs with an investiture based on Baltimore or Maryland themes. Congratulations to our 2022 investitures:

Edith Pounden — The Wye Oak

Ray Betzner — The Shot Tower

James O'Leary — Fell's Point Cove

You can stay in touch with the Sherlockians of Baltimore at our website (https://www.sherlockbaltimore.com), on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SherlockiansBaltimore) or on Twitter (@SherlockBMore) or by joining our email list by sending an email to SherlockiansOfBaltimore@gmail.com.

*Six Napoleons of Baltimore — Andy Solberg*

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| March 14, 2022 | Story: Part 1 of *A Study in Scarlet.* Presentation: "The Six Napoleons (In Verse)" by Andy Solberg |
| May 2, 2022 | Vigil at Edgar Allan Poe's Gravesites |
| June 13, 2022 | Story: "The Gloria Scott." Presentation: "Oh, What an Ass I Have Been" by Andy Solberg |
| September 12, 2022 | Story: "The Musgrave Ritual." Presentation: "Pipes Are Occasionally of Extraordinary Interest" by Henry J. Wegrocki |
| November 5, 2022 | The 43rd Enoch Pratt Library Saturday with Sherlock Holmes |
| December 12, 2022 | Story: "The Speckled Band." Presentation: "How to Observe Like Sherlock Holmes" by Bob Stek |

The Six Napoleons of Baltimore (in Maryland) was founded in 1946 and has been meeting for dinner quarterly ever since to discuss the Canon and enjoy good company. Everyone is invited and welcome. Since Napoleons include seasoned Sherlockians and ones reading the stories for the first time, no need to feel intimidated. While there is the "story of the evening," presentations cover the stories, the world of Sherlock Holmes, and interesting related research. Email Andy Solberg at als221@gmail.com for more information or to join our email list for announcements, or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/2132592560358582.

2022 was a busy year for the Napoleons. In addition to our four delightful, relaxing, and informative dinners, we also had a vigil at Edgar Allen Poe's gravesite and a tour of the adjacent cemetery and "catacombs." As we have done since Napoleon Phil Sherman started it 43 years ago, the Napoleons co-sponsored the Enoch Pratt Library's (Baltimore's public library's) Saturday with Sherlock Holmes, with several Napoleons speaking. Thanks to Carla Coupe for organizing the 2022 event. Meetings for 2023 will be held on March 13, June 12, September 11, and December 11. Come join us!

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

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| May 7, 2022 | Spring meeting: "The Solitary Cyclist" |
| October 29, 2022 | Autumn meeting: "The Copper Beeches" |

About 40 Denizens met at the Cambridge Yacht Club at 6:00 p.m. for a cash bar and dinner was served at 6:35. Our Rascally Lascar Art Renkwitz (BSI "The Bar of Gold") made welcoming comments and raised a toast to "The Master." The quiz for the meeting had beginner and expert versions, one by Gordon Vincent and the other by Carol Vincent, and these were available from the beginning until near the end of the meeting. Karen Madison received her certificate as a Denizen. Brad Harper presented a PowerPoint about his upcoming book, and Alice Zalik's pillow for "The Solitary Cyclist" was available for inspection and raffle tickets were available throughout dinner. Gary Miller read "The Beggar" by William C. Thomas. Greg Ruby, numismatist extraordinaire and BSI, gave the presentation for the evening: "In for a Penny, in for a Pound," an explanation of British money as Holmes would have known it. Gordon and Carol Vincent gave the answers to the quizzes and the winners were Chere Harper and Tess Elking. Monica Schmidt, BSI, read "A Long Evening with Holmes" by William Schweickert, BSI. The night ended with Vincent Starrett reciting "221B" by the magic of electronics.

About 35 Denizens gathered at the Cambridge Yacht Club for a cash bar starting at 6:00 p.m. and dinner was served at 6:35. Art Renkwitz, BSI, welcomed the Denizens and showed Alice Zalik's pillow designed for the story of the evening with raffle tickets available at every table. There were quizzes for beginner and expert levels based on the story for the evening and were available throughout the night. Denny Dobry, BSI, gave the presentation for the evening: "The Penang Lawyer in the Movies," which was a humorous look at canes on film and what a true Penang lawyer looks like. Stephen Oppenheimer read "The Beggar." The winners of that evening's quiz were Mark Johann and Karen Madison. The evening closed with John Knud-Hansen, BSI, reciting "A Long Evening with Holmes" and Vincent Starrett reading 221B via electronic marvels. The Spring Meeting will be on April 22, 2023, and the story will be "The Resident Patient."

For more information about the Denizens, please visit our website http://www.homeroomd140.com/denizens.html.

*A Scintillation of Scions XV — Karen Wilson*

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| August 20, 2022 | A Scintillation of Scions XV: SOS @ Home |

A Scintillation of Scions XV took place on August 20, 2022, and was, once again, an "@Home" edition offered over Zoom. Our virtual attendees enjoyed seven scintillating presentations from eight Sherlockians (one talk being co-presented), among whom were several first-time SOS speakers. Karen Wilson and Steve Mason helmed the event, sponsored as ever by Watson's Tin Box of Ellicott City.

Christopher Zordan got things started by "Reexamining the Location of San Pedro," which he very persuasively theorized is probably not where most of us assume. After a poem by Rich Krisciunas, Sherlockian author Bonnie MacBird graciously submitted to an interview about her Sherlock Holmes Adventure Series and its (then upcoming) latest entry, the holiday-themed *What Child is This?* The baton was then passed to Ira Matetsky, who enlightened us on the subject of "Sherlock Holmes and His American Publishers."

After a brief hiatus, our second round of talks began with Scintillation debutante Madeline Quiñones' original scholarship regarding the age of the Great Detective, her thesis summarized in the title of her offering, "Young(er) Sherlock Holmes." Next, it was back to Wisteria Lodge for a Doylean talk by Heather Holloway and Crystal Noll provocatively entitled "Cognitive Dissonance or Hypocrisy: Arthur Conan Doyle's Representation of Voodoo in WIST." Rob Nunn followed with "To Form the Amalgam," in which he entertainingly proposed one Canonical villain as the model for all who came

after. Finally, Joshua Harvey's "The Other Doctor: In Pursuit of Another Holmesian Forerunner" gave us a look at an eminent Victorian medico and Sherlockian type with a familiar (to Granada fans) family name.

As always, our presenters outdid themselves in terms of variety and originality. While it is our hope to return to an in-person event in 2023, we are delighted that, whatever the format, A Scintillation of Scions continues to showcase the best the Sherlockian world has to offer.

*A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes at the Pratt Library — Carla Kaessinger Coupe*

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| November 5, 2022 | The 43rd Saturday with Sherlock Holmes |

The 43rd A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes at the Enoch Pratt Free Library was held on Saturday, November 5. This year's theme was "I'm a believer in the genius loci," the Most Curious Places in Canon. The program was available both in person and live-streamed at the Pratt Library's YouTube channel.

We traveled the globe from London to Dartmoor to Australia courtesy of our eight erudite speakers including Dan Andriacco, Brent Morris, Alan Rettig, Andy Solberg, Lynne Stephens, Art Taylor, Dan Thomas, and Karen Wilson.

A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes is sponsored by the Six Napoleons of Baltimore, the Sherlockians of Baltimore, and Watson's Tin Box of Ellicott City.

## Massachusetts

*The Speckled Band of Boston — George Schwartz*

The Speckled Band of Boston did not meet in 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is our most sincere hope to resume in-person meetings in 2023.

*The Friends of Irene Adler (Boston) — George Schwartz*

The Friends of Irene Adler also did not meet in 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is our hope to resume in-person meetings in 2023.

## Michigan

*The Ribston-Pippins — Regina Stinson*

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| March 19, 2022 | "The Five Orange Pips" |
| May 28, 2022 | "A Case of Identity" |

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| July 16, 2022 | "The Red-Headed League" |
| September 10, 2022 | Field Trip |
| November 19, 2022 | 34th Anniversary Meeting |

The Ribston-Pippins was founded in 1988 by Regina Stinson, who continues to serve as Gasogene. Meetings usually occur on the second or third Saturday every other month. This year the scion did not meet in January due to the passing of Regina's husband, Sam. Our March meeting took place in a new venue for us, the Royal Oak American Legion.

March, May, and July were regular meetings. In September we had a field trip to the Detroit Historical Museum for a scavenger hunt and lunch afterwards.

We had some wonderful speakers this year: Rich Krisciunas, Steve Doyle, Beverly Sobolewski, and Dan Andriacco. November marked our 34th anniversary, which we always celebrate with a special dinner. This year's dinner was held at Simple Palate in Warren, MI.

For more information, please contact Regina Stinson at pippinviolet@gmail.com.

*The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit — Robert Musial*

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| April 23, 2022 | Dinner and discussion of *A Study in Scarlet* |
| August 15, 2022 | Dinner and discussion of *The Sign of Four* |

The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit was founded in 1946 and has been meeting regularly — and irregularly — since then. The meetings include dinner and toasts, followed by a discussion of the assigned story. After a scholarly presentation is made, there is 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.

On April 23, 2022, the society met at its home base, the British Commonwealth Club of Detroit, welcoming 35 members and guests to a buffet dinner and a dessert cake emblazoned with artwork of the door to 221-B Baker Street. After the usual toasts plus one by the group's new tidewaiter Chris Jeryan in memory of the late member Jerry Alvin, society commissionaire Chris Music led a short talk on *A Study in Scarlet*. Following that, author, playwright, and society member David MacGregor served up a scholarly yet entertaining paper detailing "The 3½ Definitive Sherlock Holmes's: The Evolution of Popular Culture's Greatest Hero," working back from Benedict Cumberbatch to Jeremy Brett to Basil Rathbone to William Gillette. Member

Christine DelGreco next drew the names for that evening's door prizes, which were won by Michael Ellis, Anne Musial, Sherry and Bob Jurva, Chris Pilot, and Michael Locke. The meeting closed with the singing of "God Save the Queen" and member Rob Musial read the traditional sign-off, Vincent Starrett's classic poem, "221B."

Five months later, the 76th anniversary dinner of the AMS was held on October 1, 2022, once again at the Commonwealth Club, with 32 members and guests in attendance. The traditional toasts were offered to The Woman, Mrs. Hudson, Mycroft Holmes, and Watson's Second Wife, with society gasogene John Kramb adding a toast to the Red-Headed League, in memory of longtime member Jerry Alvin. Kramb also recognized two AMS members who also belong to the Baker Street Irregulars, Chris Music and Regina Stinson, the founder of the Ribston-Pippins, a suburban Detroit scion. The buffet dinner concluded with slices of a special dessert cake bearing "The Sign of Four," followed by a discussion of that assigned story by member Rob Musial. Next was a presentation by member Glenn Walters on "AKA — The Aliases of The Canon," enhanced by members choosing aliases from the stories and a quiz.

After Kramb announced that the next AMS meeting would likely be in March 2023, door prizes drawn by Christine Del Greco were won by Chris Dale, Craig Garant, and Glenn Walters. Finally, the crowd stood to sing "God Save the Queen" and member Chris Jeryan read "221B" to conclude the meeting.

Stay in touch with The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit through its website at http://amateurmendicantsociety.org.

## Minnesota

*The Norwegian Explorers — Tom Gottwalt*

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| January 15, 2022 | Zoom Study Group: "Black Peter" |
| January 30, 2022 | Baker Street West — Gathering to hear from those attending NYC weekend |
| February 19, 2022 | Zoom Study Group: "The Blanched Soldier" |
| March 19, 2022 | Zoom Study Group: "The Blue Carbuncle" |
| April 16, 2022 | Zoom Study Group: "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" |
| May 21, 2022 | Zoom Study Group: "The Bruce-Partington Plans" |
| May 22, 2022 | Obtained Beacon Society's Exhibit Kit for local library's Holmes-based summer reading program |

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| June 18, 2022 | Zoom Study Group: Non-Canonical Detour — "The Amateur Cracksman" (Adventures of Raffles) |
| July 22, 2022 | Twin Cities Antiquarian and Rare Book Fair — many Explorers attended |
| July 24, 2022 | "Holmes and Watson" at the Park Square Theatre with post-play cast Q and A and post-play reception |
| September 17, 2022 | Zoom Study Group: "The Cardboard Box" |
| September 22, 2022 | Bouchercon in Twin Cities — many Explorers attended |
| October 15, 2022 | Zoom Study Group: "Charles Augustus Milverton" |
| October 22, 2022 | Co-hosted International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes opening weekend conference |
| November 19, 2022 | Zoom Study Group: "The Copper Beeches" |
| December 1, 2022 | Annual Dinner and Business Meeting (featuring Glen Miranker) |
| December 17, 2022 | Zoom Study Group: "The Creeping Man" |

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

We have a strong history and legacy of publishing a great deal of Sherlockian materials and items of interest. Our Christmas Annual consistently has great contributions from a variety of individuals and in a variety of formats. This year was no exception and copies were distributed to attendees at our December Annual Dinner and to guests at certain of the New York City events in January. This year we published an additional special booklet celebrating the writings of long-time member Ruth Berman entitled *"Sherlock Holmes in Oz" and Others: The Sherlockian Writings of Ruth Berman*.

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

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

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

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

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

President: Tom Gottwalt (tomgottwalt@gmail.com).

Secretary and Treasurer: Phil Bergem (pgbergem@gmail.com).

## Missouri

*The Parallel Case of St. Louis — Rob Nunn*

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| January 8, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Second Stain" |
| March 19, 2022 | Zoom discussion of *The Valley of Fear* |
| May 14, 2022 | In-person discussion of "Wisteria Lodge" |
| June 5, 2022 | Victorian Picnic |
| July 9, 2022 | In-person discussion of "The Red Circle" |
| September 10, 2022 | In-person discussion of "The Bruce-Partington Plans" |
| October 15, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Dying Detective" |
| November 12, 2022 | In-person discussion of "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" |
| December 10, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Devil's Foot" |

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

2022 started out with us continuing to meet via Zoom. By the spring, we were comfortable enough to meet in person again. It was great to be back with one another and enjoy all of the friendly conversations that we had missed out on over the past few years.

But we had made so many friends across the country and the world that although The Parallel Case of St. Louis will meet mostly in-person, we will still hold three Zoom meetings throughout the year to stay in touch with our friends from out of town. So even if a meeting in St. Louis isn't convenient, you can join us all the same at our winter, spring, and fall Zoom meetings!

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

The Parallel Case of St. Louis continues to post some wonderful scholarship by our members on our blog, *The Parallelogram* (http://parallelogramstl.blogspot.com/). Like many things in the Sherlockian world, its schedule can be irregular, but they are worth checking out nonetheless!

January: "Katham" by William Cochran

February: "Ode to Mrs. Hudson" by Heather Hinson

June: "The Adventure of the Queen's Jubilee" by Kristen Mertz

December: "The Historical Context of 'His Last Bow'" by Adam Presswood

2023 will be a big year for The Parallel Case of St. Louis, as we host another Holmes in the Heartland conference. During July 28-30, 2023, scores of Sherlockians will enjoy a weekend in St. Louis full of socialization, location visits, vendors, meals, and speakers. Scheduled to speak on the theme of "Arch Enemies" are Raymond Betzner, Cindy Brown, Steven Doyle, Beth Gallego, Mike McSwiggin, Kristin Mertz, Monica Schmidt, and the St. Louis Costumers Guild. Brad Keefauver and Steve Mason will bring their entertaining Alpha Inn Goose Club Trivia to that weekend's dinner banquet as well. You can find more information about Holmes in the Heartland at https://parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland. If you would like to join our mailing list or have any questions about The Parallel Case of St. Louis, please email us at parallelcasestl@gmail.com.

*The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn — J. Andrew Basford*

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| January 21, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "Charles Augustus Milverton", *The Valley of Fear*, "The Blanched Soldier," and "The Abbey Grange" |
| February 18, 2022 | (Mycroft's Birth Month): Zoom discussion of "The Greek Interpreter," "The Final Problem," "The Empty House," and "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (and "The Beryl Coronet" because Watson says it happened in February) |
| March 18, 2022 | Zoom discussion of *A Study in Scarlet*, "The Devil's Foot," and "Wisteria Lodge" |
| April 15, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Empty House," "The Final Problem," The Three Students," "The Reigate Squires," and "The Speckled Band" |
| May 20, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "Shoscombe Old Place," "The Priory School," A Scandal in Bohemia," and "The Three Gables" |
| June 17, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Three Garridebs," "The Stockbroker's Clerk," and "Boscombe Valley Mystery" |
| July 15, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "Black Peter," "The Lion's Mane," "The Dancing Men," and "The Naval Treaty" |
| August 19, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "His Last Bow," "The Norwood Builder" and "The Cardboard Box" |
| September 23, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Red Circle," "The Creeping Man," "The Engineer's Thumb," *The Hound of the Baskervilles,* and "Silver Blaze" |
| October 21, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Problem of Thor Bridge," "The Musgrave Ritual" "The Second Stain," and "The Red-Headed League" |
| November 18, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Golden Pince-Nez," "The Dying Detective," "The Sussex Vampire," and "The Bruce-Partington Plans" |

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| December 16, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "~~The Missing Three-Quarter~~," "~~The Beryl Coronet~~," and "The Blue Carbuncle" (Watson said "The Missing Three-Quarter" and "The Beryl Coronet" happened in February despite what Baring-Gould or Finley Christ say) |

The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, the Sherlock Holmes Society of St. Charles, MO, was founded by Michael Bragg and company in 1989 (recognized as #198 by J.B. Shaw on November 23, 1988, and recognized by Peter Blau as #255 on December 12, 1988). We typically meet on the third Friday of every month (with the exception of September when we meet on the fourth Friday) to share news, converse about Sherlockiana in general, and discuss and observe whatever story or stories we have planned for the month. We have gone through the Baring-Gould order, the Oxford, the Apocrypha, the Brett and Rathbone films, the Klinger editions, and the Doubleday editions.

In 2021, we tried something new by modifying the Baring-Gould order so we could choose from different Canon accounts that happened in whatever month we were in. This posed some interesting challenges. For one, while most months average between 3 to 5 different accounts, some months have 8 to 10 accounts within them. As such, we spread it out over a two-year period so that each month we would feature anywhere from three accounts at least to five accounts at best. February is the major exception as Baring-Gould doesn't list *any* accounts in that month; so, since it is the birth month of Sherlock's older brother, we devoted it to any accounts that either feature Mycroft Holmes (GREE and BRUC) or mention him (FINA and EMPT). We followed this path through 2022 where, by that time, the Sequence had morphed into us observing *all* the accounts of that month, all briefly but some with more focus if anybody offered a presentation.

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

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

*The Whaling News* (https://whalingnews.wordpress.com): Updated monthly, we feature a review of our previous month's observances, discussions, and/or presentations called *The Blow Hole*; a little light entertainment in the middle we call *The Blubber* (which includes three editions of *Baker Street Elementary*), and two puzzle games called *The Reigate Squares* and *The Cipher of Fear*; a Harpooners' Calendar of historical and pending events for the next month; a

review of the previous month's meeting called *The Fluke*; a listing of what Canon accounts we will be observing over the next few months; and a final tally of publishing info and what we plan over the next couple of meetings in *The Baleen*.

Our Schedule Page (https://harpooners.wordpress.com/schedule): A listing of the Canon accounts we will be observing and when (and whether or not we will try for an in-person meeting!).

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

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

We also maintain a presence on social media. You can follow us on Facebook (@Harpooners.MO) and on Twitter (@Harpooners_MO). Feel free to join our email list (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNPG7xbTFQG_Dg1L1ArIhzNT93XyMh2bcuOmrVmTJfciUt8g/viewform) or contact our Pilot Whale/Editor for more details (pcairnes26@icloud.com).

We hope we can see you at our next meeting!

## NEBRASKA

*Omaha Sherlockian Society — Stanley Wileman Jr.*

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| January 15, 2022 | Sherlock's birthday meeting (scheduled). Due to weather and member concerns about the virus, the 7:00 p.m. dinner at Jerico's Restaurant was canceled. |
| February 12, 2022 | Zoom meeting: We discussed the first story in *The Sign of Seven.* |
| March 13, 2022 | Zoom meeting: We covered the second and third stories in *The Sign of Seven.* |
| April 9, 2022 | Zoom meeting: 4th and 5th stories from *The Sign of Seven.* |
| May 14, 2022 | Hybrid meeting: 6th story from *The Sign of Seven*. |
| June 11, 2022 | Hybrid meeting: Discussed the last story in The Sign of Seven, and the first book in the series by Laurie R. King, The Beekeeper's Apprentice: or, On the Segregation of the Queen (A Mary Russell Mystery, 1). Also discussed the second book in the series, "A Monstrous Regiment of Women." |
| July 9, 2022 | Library meeting: Completed discussion of the second Mary Russell mystery. |

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| August 13, 2022 | Library meeting: *A Study in Scarlet,* focusing on locations mentioned or visited in the novel. |
| September 10, 2022 | Library meeting: *The Sign of Four* |
| October 8, 2022 | Library meeting: "A Scandal in Bohemia" |
| October 26, 2022 | The annual dinner was held at the Brazen Head Pub. Bob Bernier presented a talk titled "What Did Sherlock Eat?" |
| November 12, 2022 | Library meeting: "The Red-Headed League" |
| November 20, 2022 | English Tea at the Bernier's home (pictures to appear on the web) |
| December 11, 2021 | Library meeting: "A Case of Identity" |

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, there were still some "virtual" meetings this year using Zoom, since at the beginning of the year the library still didn't allow meetings to be held (because of COVID-19).

Meetings usually begin with notes of recent events of interest to Sherlockians, and presentation of various potentially interesting Sherlockian materials (e.g., new pastiches, reports of activities, and coming events). Then we proceed to a discussion of either a story from the Canon, or a pastiche. One of the questions always addressed in the early meetings of 2022 is "when will the library allow meetings again?"

We now know the answer to that question. We resumed meeting in a meeting room at one of the Omaha public library branches in May. Normally we meet in the Swanson branch, but due to a scheduling mishap, we had to meet one month at a different branch. But we're now back to regular meetings in the Swanson branch of the library.

We have now begun a new cycle through the stories from the Canon, this time examining them in the order of their first publication. For each story, one or more members volunteer to lead the discussion. And for this cycle, we likely focus on something other than just an overview of the story. For example, we might focus on the particular geographical locations mentioned in a story. We may also take a detour from the Canon and discuss one or more pastiches, assuming they are of sufficient potential interest to 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.

We attempt to keep the society's web site (http://omahasherlockian

society.org) updated, and visitors are welcome to peruse the material posted there. The hope is that it will continue to grow. And someday we may also have a Facebook page!

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

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| January 13, 2022 | SH Birthday Commemoration (Zoom) |
| February 22, 2022 | BSI Weekend report (Zoom) |
| March 29, 2022 | Medieval, Victorian and Modern Murderous Methods (Zoom) |
| April 19, 2022 | Discussion of "The Devil's Foot" and "The Dancing Men" (hybrid) |
| April 30, 2022 | Visit to Naulakha, Kipling's Vermont home |
| June 27, 2022 | Luncheon — review of *Conan Doyle for the Defense* |
| September 13, 2022 | The Curious Incidence of the Telephone in the Canon (hybrid) |
| November 7, 2022 | Empirically Speaking — When Britain Ruled the World (Zoom) |

After two years enjoying Zoom presentations mostly by remote Sherlockians, 2022, our seventeenth year, was a year of transition for our scion toward hybrid and in-person meetings.

In January we celebrated Sherlock's birthday with a fun and relaxing Zoom meeting featuring toasts and imaginative contributions and discussions from our members — such as what you might ask Sherlock if you were dining with him.

February's meeting brought us reports on the BSI weekend — Walt Colby, BSI on the Dinner, and Anna Behrens, founder and leader of the Monadnock Sherlockians in Keene, NH on other events, including especially Glen Miranker's Sherlockian exhibit at the Grolier Club.

In March three club members who are writers of, among other things, mysteries — Hilary Llewellyn-Thomas, Heidi Wilson, and Genie Parrish — treated us to a presentation on the history of murder methods in mystery literature. Am I the only person who didn't know there were many medieval mystery novels?

April brought us our first foray into hybrid, using our library's OWL equipment. Like most things it has advantages and disadvantages — it's not the same as all sitting around a table, but it does make attendance easy for folks who aren't ready for in-person or find it more convenient, including members who have moved, and previous remote speakers who we enjoy seeing again.

Also in April some of us joined with members of the Keene club to visit Naulakha, Kipling's Vermont home. Anna Behrens had arranged the visit

and a presentation by Jackson Gillman, a terrific Kipling impersonator who of course discussed Arthur Conan Doyle's visit there in 1894.

In June we were in-person for a restaurant luncheon and enjoyed member Ed Blanchard's review of *Conan Doyle for the Defense*, his successful effort to seek justice for Oscar Slater.

In September I presented "The Curious Incidence of the Telephone in the Canon" — curious in that the telephone appears in two of the early published stories and then 33 years later in four of the last published.

We finished our year in November with Mike Berdan, BSI reprising his informative and witty "Empirically Speaking: When Britain Ruled the World," the leadoff presentation at the BSI Empire Conference last summer.

For more information about our club, please contact Tom Brydges at tombrydges3@gmail.com.

*The Monadnock Sherlockians (Keene) — Anna Behrens*

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| January 2, 2022 | Zoom reading of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol* |
| January 7-9, 2022 | Group leader Anna Behrens attended the BSI weekend in NYC |
| February 19, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Bruce Partington Plans" |
| March 5, 2022 | Zoom readings of *The Unique Hamlet* and *Sherlock Holmes Goes West* play adaptations |
| April 9, 2022 | Zoom readings of *Yes, Virginia, There is a Sherlock Holmes*, and *The Late Mr. Faversham* play adaptations |
| April 30, 2022 | In-person gathering at the Kipling House in VT where ACD stayed as a guest. We hosted a living history performer Jackson Gillman as Rudyard Kipling discussing when ACD came to meet Kipling. Members of the nearby Sherlock Holmes group of the Upper Valley were in attendance |
| May 29, 2022 | In-person outdoor social gathering of Monadnock Sherlockians |
| June 9. 11, 14, 15, 18, 28, 29. 30, 2022 | In-person rehearsals of Sherlock play pastiches, and planning of Sherlock week activities |
| July 15-24, 2022 | In-person Sherlock Week activities at Keene Library co-sponsored by Monadnock Sherlockians for children and adults, including four radio play performances of Sherlock Holmes pastiches and hosting of cast party |
| August 21, 2022 | Book party for publication of the Monadnock Sherlockian Anthology, including writings from group members as well as other New England Sherlockians |
| September 25, 2022 | In-person Discussion of "The Dying Detective" and viewing of the Jeremy Brett adaptation |

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| November 6, 2022 | In-person discussion of "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" and viewing of the Jeremy Brett adaptation |
| December 4, 2022 | In-person holiday gathering with games, trivia, prizes, and a dramatic reading of Catherine Behrens's play adaptation of "The Blue Carbuncle" |

The Monadnock Sherlockians, founded in 2016 in Keene, NH by Anna Behrens and her late husband Richard Behrens, meets monthly. We discuss canonical stories in order of publication. We meet at the NH home of leader Anna Behrens, where a PowerPoint about the story is 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). Discussion leadership is on a voluntary basis, and the leader supplies a presentation with background on the story. We are a literary and theatrical group, so we often performed dramatic readings of the stories. Food and plenty of beverages are shared to toast to our favorite characters from the story, and to toast our late co-founder, Richard Behrens.

2022 has been a very active year for our group. We put on a weeklong Sherlock Week at our local library at the end of July, where we had daily presentations, a book display sponsored in part by the Beacon Society, and four play performances of Sherlock Holmes pastiches called collectively, Not According to Doyle. The plays included The Unique Hamlet, Sherlock Holmes Goes West, Yes, Virginia, there is a Sherlock Holmes, and, The Late Mr. Faversham. The plays were adapted by member Catherine Behrens. The plays, along with writings from group members and other New England Sherlockians, were compiled into the *Monadnock Sherlockian Anthology*, published in Summer 2022.

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 Behrens at monadnock sherlockian@gmail.com.

## NEW JERSEY

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

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| May 26, 2022 | "Holmes Beat the Horses and You Can Too," by Peter McIntyre, BSI |
| October 27, 2022 | "Spiritualism Makes Strange Bedfellows: The Curious Friendship of Houdini and Conan Doyle" by Vincent Cirillo, Ph.D. |

The Red-Headed League of Jersey was founded by the late Judge Ira Dworkin; it became a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars on November 1, 1976. The group meets twice a year, spring and fall, at a restaurant in Central New Jersey. We resumed in-person meetings in 2022 after a two-year hiatus. Attendance is pay-as-you go; we do not collect dues (and red hair is not required in order to attend). The evening meetings consist of dinner, a presentation and usually a quiz on a pre-announced story from the Canon. There is also a Free Stuff table where attendees can swap Sherlockian books, magazines, recordings, etc.

In addition to a masterful presentation by Peter McIntyre, our May meeting featured a short historical review of racing in Victorian England, vis à vis "Silver Blaze," and tips on picking a winner using some elementary deductions. The quiz was designed by Jim Sommerville on "The Musgrave Ritual." Bernadette Hunsicker won the quiz.

Our October meeting featured an exceptional presentation on spiritualism, Houdini, and Doyle by Vincent Cirillo. The meeting's quiz was created by Bernadette Hunsicker on "The Solitary Cyclist" and won by Dennis Keiser.

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

## New York

*221B NYC — Jennifer Kneeland*

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| March 19, 2022 | Visit to the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" exhibit at the Grolier Club |
| June 10, 2022 | In-person discussion of "The Speckled Band" at Tea & Sympathy |
| August 7, 2022 | Afternoon tea and character discussion: focus on Mrs. Hudson |
| October 17, 2022 | Drinks and attending the performance of "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the Episcopal Actors Guild |

221B NYC was founded in 2015. Jennifer Kneeland has been organizing events for this group since then. The focus of this group has been on introducing people to the Canon who may have come to Holmes through various media, as well as providing an informal space for all fans.

In recent years we have not been as active, but we still had four events in 2022.

In March we gathered to visit the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" exhibit at the Grolier Club, afterward heading to Café Bilboquet with members to discuss what we had seen.

In June we had a discussion of the "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" at Tea & Sympathy. Our members were delighted by the venue, so we decided to go back on a weekend for a proper afternoon tea. In August we did just that, for a discussion about Mrs. Hudson both in the Canon, and ways she is portrayed in adaptations.

When Quicksilver Radio Theater did an adaptation of the radio play for "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" it seemed perfect since we had discussed that story earlier in the year. Some of our members gathered together to attend the program, which was a fundraiser for the organization "Performers in Need."

221B NYC is primarily organized through Meetup at www.meetup.com/221bnyc/.

*The Hudson Valley Sciontists — Lou and Candace Lewis*

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| May 29, 2022 | Spring meeting: "The Six Napoleons" |
| September 18, 2022 | Autumn meeting: *The Sign of Four* |

The Hudson Valley Sciontists had its traditional Spring and Fall gatherings in 2022 and celebrated the 50th Anniversary of this venerable scion.

About 30 brave souls gathered at Vassar College's Alumnae House in Poughkeepsie, NY on May 29, 2022 to consider "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons."

During the meeting, we stood on the terrace while Julia C. Rosenblatt remembered J. Joseph McGowan (1936-2022) and Barry Menuez (1933-2022). Toasts were delivered by Beth Darlington to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria; Molly Jones to Dr. Joseph Bell; Marjorie J. Smith gave a toast to Napoleon Bonaparte; and Will Walsh delivered a toast to Inspector G. Lestrade. Roger Donway delivered a masterful presentation: Who was the Owner of the Black Pearl? And Candace J. Lewis delighted the crowd with A Study in Art: "'The Adventure of the Six Napoleons." The meeting concluded with Don Delaney delivering a toast to Sherlock Holmes (poem: "A Long Evening with Holmes" by William B. Schweickert).

Fifty members gathered to consider *The Sign of Four* on Sunday, September 18, 2022 at the Vassar College Alumnae House. A lovely dinner was catered by Twisted Soul. Four of our members gave the following toasts: Diane Hoe to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria; Marjorie J. Smith toasted to the Founders; Albert Rosenblatt gave An Anniversary Toast; and Fritz Sonnenschmidt concluded the toast with Dining in Dutchess with Sherlock Holmes. The evening's entertainment were presentations by Julia C. Rosenblatt: "Who was Tonga?"; Charles Blanksteen: "Navigating the Thames";

and Ira Matetsky: "Sherlock Holmes and his American Publishers." And Brendan Mee ended the meeting with our traditional Toast to Sherlock Holmes (poem: "A Long Evening with Holmes").

Each attendee received a complementary magnifying glass, a commemorative booklet reciting the history of the scion with photographs of the Founders from 1972 and commemorative lapel pins of both Holmes and Watson.

*The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse (1971-Present) — Carol Cavalluzzi*

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| January 12-16, 2022 | Expedition to NYC for the BSI weekend |
| February 13, 2022 | Story Meeting —*The Hound of the Baskervilles*, pt. 1 |
| March 13, 2022 | Story Meeting — *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, pt. 2 |
| April 9, 2022 | Story Meeting — "The Golden Pince-Nez" Granada's Version |
| May 14, 2022 | Presentation — Carol Cavalluzzi: Watson's 2 Wounds |
| June 11, 2022 | Story Meeting — "The Copper Beeches" |
| July 2022 | Cortland Repertory Theater, canceled due to COVID-19 |
| August 27, 2022 | Summer Picnic |
| September 11, 2022 | Presentation — Eugene Osso, *Corporals, Colonels, and Commissionaires* |
| September 22-25, 2022 | Expedition to Toronto for 50th Anniversary |
| October 16, 2022 | Costume Party Osos's home |
| November 13, 2022 | Presentation — Joe Coppola, BSI: Publishing Sherlock Holmes: the story of Newnes Publications |
| December 10, 2022 | Holiday Party |

January started with a wonderful trip to NYC for the BSI weekend. This was the first in a few years where people could actually meet face to face. Mycroftians Joe and Elaine Coppola and Donald and Anna Bridy attended the festivities for 2022. We do not have a Mycroftians meeting in January, in the hopes of encouraging more to attend the BSI weekend.

There were several Story Meetings this winter and many interesting comments, and comments on comments. We read *The Hound of the Baskervilles* divided into two parts. April saw us viewing the Granada version of GOLD. A lively compare and contrast discussion of the TV with the book occurred.

The meetings used to be held in the Community Library of Dewitt and Jamesville (suburbs of Syracuse, NY), but when COVID forced the library to close, we found a new home in the basement of one of our member's churches. We chipped in to pay the small fee for coffee and use of the room.

This worked well for us, because there was a good audio-video system available. We settled in and then in May we were told that a religious group needed the space in which to hold their service at the exact same time as our meetings were set up. Once again the Mycroftians were forced to move. Because we only needed space for a few months, the Coppolas held them at their home.

Carol Cavalluzzi made an old-fashioned presentation with a cardboard poster and some family pictures. The subject of the talk, borrowed with permission from another scion society, was entitled the Mystery of Dr. John H. Watson's Wandering Wounds. The audience seemed to enjoy this retro-speech instead of another PowerPoint presentation.

For years the Mycroftians have traveled some thirty miles either in June or July and sometimes in August for a picnic dinner and a mystery play at the Cortland Repertory Theater at Little York Park in Preble, NY. Unfortunately, the cast and crew came down with COVID and the play was canceled and money returned. It was very disappointing. We had a Bar-B-Q at Cavalluzzi's home to make up for the disappointment. These picnic Bar-B-Qs are always fun.

Two astounding presentations were delivered in September and November. The first, called Corporals, Colonels, and Commissionaires (BSI, thanks), was by Eugene Osso. The second, by Joe Coppola, BSI was called Publishing Sherlock Holmes: the story of Newnes Publications.

The Ososes held a costume party in their Victorian home to celebrate Halloween. This is a very comfortable home and the attendees thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The last meeting of the year is always a Holiday Party. Anna and Donald Bridy generously entertained the group.

After staying inside for two years, we all needed to celebrate and relax. For information about the Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse and/or what they do, please contact Carol Cavalluzzi ASH, Corresponding Secretary, at cacavall@outlook.com, (315) 559-9217.

*The Priory Scholars (NYC) — Nick Martorelli*

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| April 30, 2022 | Spring meeting: "The Illustrious Client" |
| July 9, 2022 | Summer meeting: "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" |
| October 22, 2022 | Autumn meeting: "The Beryl Coronet" |

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.

After virtual meetings in 2020 and 2021, we were thrilled to return to in-person gatherings in Manhattan in 2022. Our scholars returned to our usual tavern (which had survived the pandemic), and our usual toasts and group discussion of the story at hand (always a highlight of the scion), have continued to be as insightful and spirited as ever. I am proud of our members for preserving the energy and the spirit of the Priory meetings throughout these challenging times.

Our meetings are held at The Churchill Tavern, and we are looking forward to another year of in-person Sherlockian fellowship. There is no requirement to join the group. More information about the group, as well as our 2023 meeting schedule, can be found at https://prioryscholarsnyc.wordpress.com/, on Twitter (@PrioryNYC), or via an email sent to PrioryNYC@gmail.com.

*The Three Garridebs of Westchester County — Troy Reynolds*

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| March 5, 2022 | Zoom meeting discussing "The Lion's Mane" |
| May 14, 2022 | Zoom meeting dissecting "The Engineer's Thumb" |
| August 20, 2022 | Zoom meeting examining "The Golden Pince-Nez" |
| October 30, 2022 | Zoom meeting covering "The Devil's Foot" |
| December 11, 2022 | In-person meeting celebrating "The Musgrave Ritual" |

For the first time in nearly three years, the Three Garridebs of Westchester (New York) gathered under the same roof to celebrate Sherlock Holmes in 2022! But the year began with more Zoom events, the first on March 5, when we looked at "The Lion's Mane."

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

The March meeting sadly began with a tribute to former Garridebs officer Jeanne Nolan, and we stood on the terrace to honor her. After the toasts and quiz, Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves gave a presentation on jellyfish. To the delight of the inner math geek in us all, Ben Vizoskie presented a paper on conic sections, relating the topic to the Canon. He also reported on the BSI's

birthday weekend. For the game, teams attempted to control jellyfish populations by correctly identifying Sherlockian stories and characters based on a series of clues.

Another Zoom meeting, on "The Engineer's Thumb," followed on May 14. Olivia Rutigliano's paper examined how numerous people and things in the story were not what they appeared to be, comparing it to a David Lynch movie. The meeting's activity investigated non-Sherlockian detective book series. Attendees had been asked prior to the meeting to submit recommendations, and Ben Vizoskie shared the list with the group, letting each person say a few words about his or her selection. (We would like to thank the Scotland Yarders of Chicago, which had previously conducted a similar activity, for the idea.)

Our summer meeting was held on August 20, again via Zoom. The story was "The Golden Pince-Nez." We began the meeting by standing on the terrace to honor June Kinnee. Following the toasts and quiz, Will Walsh delivered a paper by Tony Czarnecki, who was unable to attend, on the history of pince-nez and U.S. presidents who wore them. Edith Pounden discussed the influences on the story and Doyle's writing method. Finally, Sue Vizoskie compared Anna's pince-nez in the story with her grandmother's. Our activity took advantage of Zoom's polling feature. Attendees were asked multiple-choice questions related to the Canon, and we showed the percentages of people selecting each answer before revealing the correct response.

We planned to host our "return to in-person" meeting in October, but multiple scheduling conflicts with the library where we meet forced us to hold another Zoom event. On October 30, we gathered virtually to discuss "The Devil's Foot." Once again, we began by standing on the terrace, this time in memory of two Garridebs, Richard Wein and Len Gilman. Tony Czarnecki discussed the devil's foot and mental health care in Victorian England. Greg Darak gave an overview of the BSI's "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" conference held in July, and Ben and Sue Vizoskie discussed September's "Jubilee @ 221B" event in Toronto. The game for the meeting was a Sherlockian version of the board game Facts in Five.

Finally, on December 11, the Garridebs met at the Hastings Library. Although the December meeting is traditionally our Blue Carbuncle luncheon, we decided to ease into returning to physical gatherings by hosting a regular meeting instead. Presentations included a paper on the first U.S. publication of *The Memoirs* by Ira Matetsky, a history of the Musgrave family by Tony Czarnecki, and an overview of the names of British monarchs by Paul Astle. One of the show-and-tell highlights was a watercolor of the Musgrave coat of arms shared by Lynn Walker. It was given to Lynn by

prominent early Sherlockian Nathan Bengis when she founded the Musgrave Ritualists Beta, one of the three groups that later merged to form the Three Garridebs. Following a snack break, Becca Reynolds led the group in a few seasonal Sherlockian songs that we usually sing at the Blue Carbuncle luncheon. While some members left early because of the threat of winter weather, those who remained enjoyed playing whist and conversing until it was time to adjourn. Attendees received a custom-made Three Garridebs chocolate bar in celebration of returning to in-person meetings and the Garridebs' 50th year as a scion!

We thank attendees for their patience, cooperation, and participation throughout the year. We would like to give a special thank-you to Becca Reynolds for hosting the Zoom meetings; Paul Astle for creating the quizzes; Will Walsh for coordinating the toasts; Ben Vizoskie and Troy Reynolds for developing the activities; and Sue Vizoskie for preparing the Terrace memorials. We also thank the following for providing toasts: Joan Ableson, Paul Astle, Charlie Blanksteen, Tony Czarnecki, Arianna Fox, Jim Hawkins, Sabina Hollis, Joseph Isherwood, Sandy Kozinn, Ira Matetsky, Peter McIntyre, Julie McKuras, Russell Merritt, Will Walsh, Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves, Bob Zatz, and Andy Solberg (*in absentia*). Finally, we'd like to thank those who provided refreshments at the December meeting: Tony Czarnecki for shortbread from the Queen's Jubilee, Al Gregory and Julie Gonzalez for cookies, Sue Vizoskie for brownies and pumpkin cake, and Becca Reynolds for Sherlock cookies.

We are happy to be meeting in person again and plan for an exciting year in 2023 as we continue to celebrate 50 years of the Garridebs. To learn about the Three Garridebs' upcoming events, contact Garridebs@aol.com.

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

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| May 7, 2022 | Christopher Morley 132nd Birthday Brunch |
| May 12, 2022 | Zoom program about Christopher Morley and Sherlock Holmes for the Bryant Library, Roslyn, New York |

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. We normally meet over a three-hour lunch once a year on a weekend close to Morley's birthday, May 5. Since our first happy convocation of kinsprits, we have alternated gathering in Hoboken, New Jersey with going to places of significance to Morley such as Roslyn, Long Island, Haverford, Pennsylvania, and Manhattan; unfortunately,

our Morleyesque watering hole in Hoboken has closed, so that may change. The Club issues a newsletter, "The Bowling Green," and an occasional journal, *Hoboken Nights*.

Following two years of COVID-cautionary Zoom sessions, we were delighted to celebrate Christopher Morley's 132nd Birthday in person on Sunday, May 7. We opted to gather in Philadelphia on the day following the spring meeting of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, which permitted our highly esteemed member and Morley scholar Steve Rothman to attend. Living up to our motto, taken from the Morley family — "Eat a Little, Talk a Little, Eat a Little" — our dining was interspersed with toasts to Morley's alma maters by Bob Katz, and to Vincent Starrett and Morley by Ray Betzner; a reminiscence about Morley's museum The Knothole by Peter Blau; readings of a greeting from Kit Morley's grandson Joch Woodruff by John Batteiger, and of a poem by Greek member Antony Papavassiliou by Jules Spada; and a short talk about Christopher Morley and Philadelphia by Steve Rothman.

On May 12, we gave a PowerPoint presentation about Christopher Morley, Sherlock Holmes, and the Baker Street Irregulars via Zoom at the request of the Bryant Library in Roslyn, New York. Christopher Morley and his family lived in nearby Roslyn Estates, and he and his wife Helen were trustees of the library, which currently houses a significant Morley collection.

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

## OHIO

*The Tankerville Club (Cincinnati) — Dan Andriacco*

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| March 4, 2022 | Winter Meeting: "The Yellow Face" |
| June 17, 2022 | Spring Meeting: "The Stock-broker's Clerk" |
| Sept. 16, 2022 | Summer Meeting: "The *Gloria Scott*" |
| Oct. 22, 2022 | Professor Moriarty Film Festival |
| Dec. 9, 2022 | Autumn Meeting: "The Musgrave Ritual" |

The Tankerville Club of Cincinnati was founded in 1976 by Paul D. Herbert, BSI, as Official Secretary. Paul passed in 2018 and was succeeded (but not replaced) by Dan Andriacco, who holds the new title of Most Scandalous Member. The Tankerville is the only club mentioned in the

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

In 2022, Col. Moran's fellow members resumed their pre-COVID custom of meeting quarterly in the Cincinnati area for dinner and typical scion society activities. These include toasts, a show-and-tell of recent Sherlockian acquisitions, reports by members who have attended Sherlockian events elsewhere, a quiz, a story discussion (proceeding through the Canon in Doubleday order), sometimes a speaker, an auction of books and memorabilia for the benefit of two memorial funds supporting club activities (the Paul D. Herbert Founder's Fund and the R. Joel Senter Sr. Fund), and a reading of "221B" to close the festivities.

At the first meeting of the year, member Joe Eckrich from St. Louis described his 45 years of collecting Sherlockiana, starting in the days before the Internet made the task easier but also less fun. That same spirit of acquisition led to an enthralling bidding war for a Sherlock Holmes bobblehead. A long-time member won with a stunning $150 bid.

The June meeting closed with a recitation of "221B" by the author himself, Vincent Starrett, via a recording he made in 1958. The Most Scandalous Member set the stage with a brief talk about Starrett and the beloved sonnet.

Tankerville Club toasts customarily include at least one that is singular, and the "Stock-broker's Clerk" meeting in June was a good example. Dynamic new member Kira Settigsgaard saluted the villain of that story's gold-stuffed tooth "for it led Hall Pycroft to our favorite sleuth." September toasts went to the dog who bit Sherlock Holmes in "The *Gloria Scott*" and all the characters named Victor in the Canon.

Also in September, a new element of the late summer meeting was initiated — the yearly raffle of a subscription to the *Baker Street Journal*. The name of each member who has led a discussion, written a quiz, offered a toast, or participated in show-and-tell goes into a deerstalker for a free drawing. The first winner, Columbus-area resident Teresa "The Unknown Nurse" Harris, has been a Tankervillian for more than 30 years.

Balancing that longevity, we were joined at the September meeting by a trio of guests from Chicago — Linda Crohn, Jonathan Shimberg, and Bob Sharfman. In recent years, the Tankerville Club has benefited greatly from the presence of members and guests from far beyond Cincinnati. In addition to Chicago, the metropolitan areas of Dallas, St. Louis, and Detroit were all represented at meetings in 2022.

In October, the speculated birth month of Professor Moriarty, several members of the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis joined Tankervillians for a Moriarty Film Festival. Three Holmes/Moriarty combinations were presented: Jeremy Brett/Eric Porter (*The Final Problem*), Arthur Wontner/Lyn Harding (*The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes*), and Basil Rathbone/Henry Daniell (*The Woman in Green*). Steve Doyle, head of the Clients and a member of the Tankerville Club, put the day in context with a talk about how why Moriarty deserves his status as major canonical character even though he appears so seldom in the Canon.

Highlights of December's holiday meeting included the distribution of a Tankerville Club ornament as a gift to members and guests; a raffle of two tickets to the Holmes, Doyle, & Friends conference in Dayton on March 25, 2023; and a rousing group recitation of the Musgrave Ritual in call and response fashion, with the questions being read by seven different members and guests — who discovered that was their assigned role only by looking at the back of their nametag.

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

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| January 16, 2022 | Our annual Master's Dinner |
| March 13, 2022 | Regular meeting with discussion of "The Illustrious Client" |
| May 14, 2022 | Regular meeting with discussion of "Charles Augustus Milverton" |
| June 11, 2022 | Regular meeting with discussion of "The Norwood Builder" |
| July 21, 2022 | Tour of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation facility in Bowling Green |
| August 21, 2022 | Annual Dr. Watson's Picnic |
| September 23, 2022 | Regular meeting with discussion of "The Naval Treaty" |
| October 23, 2022 | No meeting, but several Stormy Petrels attended a performance of *Sherlock Holmes and the Ghost Machine* |
| November 19, 2022 | Regular meeting with old radio Sherlock Holmes episodes |

In January, we enjoyed our annual Master's Dinner, in celebration of the birthday of Sherlock Holmes. The fete was hosted by Her Majesty, Queen Victoria (Tracy Lustig). We may have been ten days late of the famed January 6, 1854 event, but we still enjoyed our repast at the Bravo Italian Kitchen.

We failed to find a host for our February meeting. In March, our Tantalus and his wife, the resident patient and Mrs. Hudson (Mike and Edie Hagan), hosted the monthly meeting in their home. There we discussed "The Illus-

trious Client." In addition to the usual snacks, our gracious host and hostess provided a birthday cake for several Petrels who have birthdays in March.

An April Gathering of the Nest was skipped, but in May, The King of Bohemia (Bruce Baer) hosted a meeting that included a discussion of "Charles Augustus Milverton." As always, the conversation and analysis of the story was highly enjoyable. Moreover, Bruce's meeting will long be remembered for the homemade borscht he served!

June saw a couple of firsts. It was the first meeting hosted by Percy Phelps (Jim O'Keefe) and, as he had recently moved into new digs there, it was the first Gathering of the Nest in Oxford, Michigan. Jim was ably assisted by his great-niece Alice Morphy (Erica Novakowski) in our discussion of "The Norwood Builder."

July was an absolutely unique experience for the Stormy Petrels. Vamberry the wine merchant (Tom Schoen) arranged a tour of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation facility in Bowling Green, Ohio. Our tour lasted well over and hour and included an impromptu demonstration in the firearms laboratory. The OCBI's schedule required that the tour take place on a Thursday, which limited the number of Petrels who could attend, but a truly informative time was had by those who could make it.

In August, we enjoyed our annual Dr. Watson's Picnic, hosted by The Countess of Morcar (Deb Wallace). It was held in an outdoor pavilion at Friendship Park in Genoa, Ohio. Although — or perhaps, because — the weather was lovely, we had a low turnout of Stormy Petrels. The lack of a sufficient voting majority caused us to postpone the bi-annual election of officers until the next regular Gathering of the Nest.

That occurred in September, in Vernon Lodge, the residence of our Prime Minister, Baron Adelbert Gruner, and the late Baroness Gruner (Mark and Kathy McGovern). The attendance was high, so that we were able to elect our scion's officer for the next two years. The story under discussion was "The Naval Treaty."

Although we skipped the month of October for a regular meeting, several Stormy Petrels did attend a production of Sherlock Holmes and the Ghost Machine, by David MacGregor, at the Toledo Repertoire Theatre. The set was well detailed and the principles were good, but the script was not well received by the Petrels.

The final Gathering of the Nest took place in the home of Jack Stapleton and Kitty Winter (Ralph and Pat Spitulski). Rather than discuss an exploit from the Canon, we enjoyed two old Sherlock Holmes radio dramatizations. This meeting also served as our holiday gathering, and so 2022 ended on a high note.

For more information about The Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay, please contact us at mcgovernsmodels@gmail.com.

*The Agra Treasures (Dayton) —Lorraine Reibert*

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| January 9, 2022 | Lunch meeting and quiz on *The Sign of the Four* |
| March 12, 2022 | Holmes, Doyle and Friends |
| May 15, 2022 | Lunch meeting and quiz on "His Last Bow" |
| July 10, 2022 | Picnic meeting and quiz on "The Bruce-Partington Plans" |
| October 2, 2022 | Lunch meeting and quiz on "The Empty House" |
| November 13, 2022 | Lunch meeting and quiz on "A Scandal in Bohemia" |

We usually meet at a restaurant for lunch, some talking, and a quiz on one of the Adventures. The winner of the quiz gets a book or other prize and the honor of writing the next meeting's quiz. Occasionally a paper or other Sherlockian matter is presented.

Our highlight (of course) was presenting Holmes, Doyle, & Friends in March after a two-year hiatus. Attendees began at an informal gathering on Friday evening. Speakers on topics related to Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle and other Victorian topics entertained and informed us on Saturday. Vendors offered related items for sale. We finished with dinner at a local BBQ restaurant.

We're working on the next Holmes, Doyle, & Friends — mark your calendars for March 25, 2023.

## OKLAHOMA

*Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma, Inc. — Rosalie Mollica*

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| January 27, 2022 | "The Yellow Face" |
| February 24, 2022 | "His Last Bow" |
| March 24, 2022 | "The Problem of Thor Bridge" |
| April 28, 2022 | "The Six Napoleons" |
| May 26, 2022 | "The Three Gables" |
| June 23, 2022 | "The Blanched Soldier" |
| July 28, 2022 | In-person gathering to commemorate The Battle of Maiwand |
| August 25, 2022 | "The Empty House" |
| September 22, 2022 | "The Norwood Builder" |

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| October 27, 2022 | "The Reigate Squires" |
| November 17, 2022 | "Charles Augustus Milverton" |
| December 2022 | No Meeting |

The Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma, Inc. is Oklahoma's only scion society. The Perceivers will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2024. We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month, except for November when we meet on the 3rd Thursday because of the Thanksgiving holiday. At the November meeting, stories are randomly selected for the following year. Members volunteer to be the Discussion Leader for the monthly meeting. Duties of the Discussion Leader involve preparing a minimum of three discussion starters and then facilitating the discussion. In 2022 all meetings took place via Zoom, except for July when we met in person at a local restaurant to commemorate the Battle of Maiwand.

For more information, please contact: Rosalie Mollica (ramollica@yahoo.com) or Laura Duncombe (lauramaeduncombe@gmail.com).

## Pennsylvania

*The White Rose Irregulars (York) — Dennis Dobry*

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| May 14, 2022 | Meeting at JoJo's Pizzeria |
| August 13, 2022 | Meeting at Bube's Brewery |
| December 2, 2022 | Meeting at Marzoni's Brick Oven |

In 2022, the White Rose Irregulars of York, Pennsylvania scion society was truly a bunch of wandering Sherlockians. Having lost our long-time meeting venue as a result of the pandemic, our group searched for a new suitable accommodation:

In May, 19 members met at JoJo's Pizzeria in Harrisburg, PA. *A Study in Scarlet* was the story of discussion. Denny Dobry gave the presentation: "The Penang Lawyer and the Movies."

On August 13, 25 members met at Bube's Brewery in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. "The Problem at Thor Bridge," was the story of discussion. A Sherlock Holmes Primer was given by Denny Dobry as a Sherlockian introduction for the 10 new members present.

Our December meeting had 27 members meeting at Marzoni's Brick Oven and Brewery in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. "Charles Augustus Milverton" was the story of discussion. Ten members joined in a "Sherlockian Family Feud competition."

Marzoni's proved to be an excellent venue for our group, and we plan to return there on February 25th.

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

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| May 6, 2022 | Spring Meeting |
| October 28, 2022 | Autumn Meeting |

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 on 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 five-to-ten-minute Trifling Monograph on the Sherlockian topic of their choosing, Journeymen 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.

After nearly two years of virtual meetings, The Copper Beeches were thrilled to meet in person at The Racquet Club of Philadelphia on May 6. The meeting opened with Toastmaster Peter Blau, BSI directing the traditional toasts. Emeritus Comptroller of the Kennel Ray Betzner, BSI toasted Mr. Sherlock Holmes while Emeritus Toller Steve Rothman, BSI toasted Mycroft Holmes. Subsequent toasts were offered by: Stephanie Levin (to Dr. John H. Watson); Peggy MacFarlane, BSI (to The Woman); and Xander Sobecki (to Mrs. Hudson). Karen Wilson, BSI delivered a musical toast to Violet Hunter. Following the toasts, Headmastiff Ross Davies, BSI led the group in Standing Upon the Terrace for three Master Copper-Beech-Smiths, who were each, in turn, honored by an old friend and fellow Son: Dick Ankerstjerne (honored by Steve Shalet, BSI); Philip Brogdon (honored by Peter Blau); and "Wiggins" Emeritus Mike Whelan, BSI (honored by Headmastiff Emeritus Bob Katz, BSI). These touching tributes were followed by announcements and Sherlockian reports led by Toller Jenn Eaker, BSI. After dinner, three Trifling Monographs were offered by Anastasia Klimchynskaya, BSI, James O'Leary, BSI, and Tom Cynkin, BSI.

The return of in-person meetings meant Master of the Ritual Steve Shalet resumed his duties solemnly officiating over the recitation of The Musgrave

Ritual, which Peggy MacFarlane bravely recited alone, in so doing earning the title of Journeyman. Headmastiff Ross Davies presided over the elevation of several Journeymen to the rank of Master Copper-Beech-Smith, which included: Anastasia Klimchynskaya; James O'Leary; Peggy MacFarlane; Monica Schmidt, BSI; and Marina Stajic, BSI. Peter Blau was honored with a certificate for his many years of service as the group's official Toastmaster. A dastardly Sherlockian quiz, collaboratively written by Don Hobbs, BSI, Paul Singleton, BSI, and Linda and Terry Hunt, BSI was led by Quizmaster Chris Zordan, BSI. The meeting closed with Recorder of Pedigrees Terry Hunt distributing the minutes via a newsletter he so painstakingly provides as a labor of love to the Sons.

On October 28, The Sons of the Copper Beeches met again at The Racquet Club for the Fall Meeting. Toastmaster Peter Blau oversaw the traditional toasts, which were given by Andrew Fusco, BSI (to Sherlock Holmes); Edward Pettit (to Mycroft Holmes); Tamar Zeffren, BSI (to Dr. John H. Watson); Regina Stinson, BSI (to The Woman); Michael Barton (to Mrs. Hudson). Karen Wilson and Burt Wolder, BSI offered a musical toast to Violet Hunter. Headmastiff Ross Davies led the group in Standing Upon the Terrace, during which Steve Rothman honored Nick Utechin, BSI and Paul Singleton provided a multimedia tribute to Philip Brogdon, BSI who was formally honored at the Spring meeting.

Toller Jenn Eaker shared Sherlockian reports and announcements, after which three Trifling Monographs were offered by Mickey Fromkin, BSI, Helen Gioulis, and Jacquelynn Morris, BSI. Master of the Ritual Steve Shalet led Jacquelynn Morris in the recitation of the Musgrave Ritual after which time she was elevated to the rank of Master Copper-Beech-Smith. Chris Zordan led a dastardly Sherlockian Quiz on "The Reigate Squire," prepared by Charles Blanksteen, BSI, James O'Leary, and Ben Vizoskie, BSI. Finally, Recorder of Pedigrees Terry Hunt provided the minutes, and the meeting was closed out by Toller Jenn Eaker.

The Sons of the Copper Beeches are pleased to be alive and drinking in Philadelphia once again, and look forward to our upcoming Spring meeting, to be held at The Racquet Club of Philadelphia in April of 2023.

## RHODE ISLAND

*The Cornish Horrors (Providence) — Burt Wolder*

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| November 19, 2022 | The 100th Anniversary of the Publication of "The Problem of Thor Bridge" |

The Cornish Horrors convened for their fifty-first annual meeting at the Hope Club in Providence, Rhode Island on November 19, 2022. The story for the evening was "Thor Bridge."

A welcome by Albert Silverstein, the Chaldean Archivist, introduced the cocktail hour and canonical toasts. Danna Mancini toasted Sherlock Holmes, our ever-present, stalwart companion, and recalled his personal milestones with the Canon. James O'Leary toasted Dr Watson, an unintentional veteran who offered his existence to noble ideals and lived to tell the tale. Ira Matetsky's toast to The Woman was read by Jonathan Silverstein, commending Irene Adler for her good judgment in choosing an attorney over a mere king. Dr. Leon Sterndale was honored by Michael Barton, who suggested Sterndale's research and African cartography were of interest to the Foreign Office and Mycroft Holmes. Miss Grace Dunbar was toasted by Jennifer Casasanto, who poetically recounted how "the best woman God ever made" was cleared. Cornwall's Secluded Coast, a poem by Les Daniels, was read by Burt Wolder.

Her Majesty the Queen Empress was toasted by Albert Silverstein, the Chaldean Archivist. "Looking back on the Holmesian canon and the nautical and civic power that produced it, I give you a woman whose cleverness and singular insights were never before seen and never after matched: her Imperial Majesty, the Queen and Empress of India, Victoria." The Reverend Mr. Scott Axford, TCSR, followed with a toast to honor her late majesty Queen Elizabeth II, observing that she will be remembered as beloved, respected, and valued, faithful to and servant of the Kingdom's deepest and most noble traditions, and defender of the faith. The Reverend Mr. Axford then delivered the invocation.

Burt Wolder spoke about "The Problem of Thor Bridge," reviewing similarities with several of Dr. Watson's other accounts and underscoring inconsistencies found in the manuscript. His evidence suggested that the literary agent Arthur Conan Doyle edited Watson's text to portray an anglophobic American publisher as J. Neil Gibson. The annual Leon Sterndale Invited Address was delivered by Harrison Hunt, whose illustrated presentation explored routes from Reichenbach and charted the journey of the mysterious Swiss boy.

Kathy Piffatt's Dastardly Quiz on "Thor Bridge" was won by Larry Stone. During the evening, investitures were awarded to Harrison Hunt (Dr. Moore Agar of Harley Street) and Larry Stone (The Ancient Cornish Language.) The 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*

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| February 17, 2022 | Steve Mason BSI, "Hey, Didn't You Play Sherlock Holmes?" |
| April 21, 2022 | Diane Gilbert Madsen, "Sherlock Holmes vs. Villainesses in the Canon" |
| August 18, 2022 | George Linder, "The Dottle Mystery" |
| October 20, 2022 | Tom Elmore, "The Case of the Thirsty Detective" |
| December 8, 2022 | Hansom Wheels Christmas Party |

The Hansom Wheels was founded by the Reverend Wayne Wall, BSI and G.B. Lane in 1977. We meet on the third Thursdays of February, April, August, and October at The Palmetto Club in Columbia, SC. The attendance generally varies from around fifteen to thirty or so. After dinner, I call the meeting to order by declaring, "The game is afoot!" We toast *the* woman, Irene Adler, and have a responsive reading of The Musgrave Ritual. We then go through the Happy Hour Posers, composed by Phil, which challenge the group to decipher the titles of four Canonical stories from clues in the form of puns. Example: "Eddie Fisher's first wife; the lead singer of Blondie; and Rachel Dratch's pessimistic character on *Saturday Night Live* all dressed up as witches for Halloween" = Debbie Reynolds, Debbie Harry, and Debbie Downer = the three scary Debs = "The Three Garridebs." We then have a presentation on some aspect of Sherlockiana; a story is assigned that fits in with the presentation in some, maybe tangential, way. Over the years we have read all sixty stories multiple times. We conclude with one of the members reading Vincent Starrett's sonnet 221B. Each meeting is preceded by the delivery to our members, via email attachment, of our newsletter, *The Pink 'Un*, composed by me, which recaps the previous meeting and previews the upcoming one.

The year's presentations are listed above. The first two were by guest presenters from far away and delivered to us at The Palmetto Cub via Zoom; the second two were delivered in person by local members. The assigned stories were, respectively, "The Three Garridebs," "The Three Gables," "The Engineer's Thumb," and *The Sign of the Four*.

On the first or second Thursday in December, so as not to conflict with other holiday activities, we have our Christmas Party. We do the call to order, the Ritual, and the sonnet, but there are no Happy Hour Posers, assigned story, or presentation. Instead, we dine and drink, have a drawing for door prizes, and sing along to Christmas music. The main event is a play, performed by some of the members, based on one of the stories and written by

our late program chairman, Bob Robinson, BSI. In 2022 it was *The Adventure of the Second Stain*.

Our website is https://www.hansomwheels.com. Our Facebook page is administered by Tom Elmore. You can join our mailing list and become an instant member of The Hansom Wheels (we are up to around 120, and there are no dues) by sending an email to Phil at hansomwheels@aol.com.

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

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| February 5, 2022 | Survivors meeting, discussion of "The Cardboard Box" |
| April 9, 2022 | Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of "The Yellow Face" |
| June 11, 2022 | Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of "The Stockbroker's Clerk" |
| August 27, 2022 | Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of "The Gloria Scott" |
| October 8, 2022 | Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of "The Musgrave Ritual" |
| November 12, 2022 | Survivors attended the play Holmes and Watson at the Spartanburg Little Theatre |
| December 3, 2022 | Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of "The Reigate Squires" |

The scion for the upstate of South Carolina, The Survivors of the Gloria meets bi-monthly, on a Saturday chosen to best fit with the members' work and travel schedules. Traditionally we gathered at The Happy China Restaurant in Greenville, South Carolina. We began meeting on Zoom during COVID, but this year we began to integrate some "meet-ups" at the restaurant along with our regular Zoom meetings. The Zoom format allows us to connect with Survivors who have moved out of the Upstate, whether on a permanent basis or simply to spend time at a summer home, and we have even gained a new member in New Jersey who learned of us from Facebook. Currently, we have ten active members. Our newsletter, The Lifeboat, is sent out electronically and has moved to a quarterly basis. 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, editor of The Lifeboat, at Revelstj@wofford.edu

## TENNESSEE

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

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| January 15, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Yellow Face" with David Hayes |
| February 19, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Three Garridebs" with Jeff Steward |

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| March 19, 2022 | In Person and Zoom discussion of "The Speckled Band" with Drew Thomas |
| April 16, 2022 | In Person and Zoom discussion of "Wisteria Lodge" with Bill Mason |
| May 21, 2022 | In Person and Zoom discussion of "The Sussex Vampire" with Tom Feller |
| June 18, 2022 | Annual Pot Luck Lunch / Derek Martin presented "The Missing Three-Quarter" |
| September 17, 2022 | Reader's Theater presentation of "The Empty House" with Jim Hawkins |
| October 22, 2022 | In Person and Zoom Discussion of "The Winning Shot" a non-canonical story by ACD with Dean Richardson |
| November 19, 2022 | In Person and Zoom Discussion of "The Noble Bachelor" with Marino Alvarez |
| December 10, 2022 | Christmas Party at the home of Dave Price — no story |

The Nashville Scholars were founded in 1979 by John Shanks. Our meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of the month, except for July and December, when we have a Pot Luck Lunch and a Christmas party.

A story schedule is sent to the members at the beginning of the year and posted on our website. Assignments are made for Discussion Leader of each canonical story, most often by inviting volunteers. In October, Dean Richardson discussed one of ACD's "horror" stories.

In 2022 we held joint in-person and Zoom meetings beginning in March. We enjoyed seeing Sherlockians from "the far corners of the Earth," including England, Italy, France, Australia, and New Jersey (apologies to Sandy Kozinn). Four of our members have been given irregular shillings by the Baker Street Irregulars: Bill Mason, Marino Alvarez, Shannan Carlisle, and Jim Hawkins. For years Billy Fields was the auctioneer for the Gaslight Gala (or Baskerville Bash), the alternative dinner to the BSI Dinner.

We invite you to visit our Nashville Scholars website, built on the Squarespace platform: www.nashvillescholars.com. The webmaster is Jim Hawkins. In 2018 he also designed the website in honor and memory of John Bennett Shaw: www.johnbennettshaw.com.

A brisk dialogue between our scion society and other Sherlockian scions can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/Nashville Scholars/.

Rather than highlight individual meetings on this page, please visit our REPLAY page on our website, where meetings in 2022 are stored for review: https://www.nashvillescholars.com/REPLAY.

## Texas

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

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| January 2, 2022 | 56 attendees; Guest speaker — Edith Pounden: "Edgar Allen Poe and 'A Scandal in Bohemia'" |
| February 6, 2022 | 69 attendees; Guest speaker — Brad Keefauver, BSI: "Sherlock Holmes Chronology for Fun and Profit" |
| March 6, 2022 | 68 attendees; Guest speaker — Tim Johnson, BSI: "Sherlock Holmes Collections and How to Protect Them" |
| April 3, 2022 | 61 attendees; Guest speaker — Mike McSwiggin, BSI: "Solar Pons and August Derleth" |
| May 1, 2022 | 59 attendees; Guest speaker — Jim Webb, BSI: "A Trip to Dartmoor — Pursuing a Hound" |
| June 5, 2022 | 59 attendees; Guest speaker — Regina Stinson, BSI: "The Screen Life of Sherlock Holmes" |
| July 3, 2022 | 53 attendees; Guest speaker — Tim Kline: "The Games of Sherlock Holmes" |
| September 4, 2022 | 75 attendees; Guest speaker — Russell Merritt, BSI: "Sir Arthur's Excellent Adventure in Constantinople: Holmes, Submarines, Satire, and the Red Sultan" |
| October 3, 2022 | 67 attendees; Guest speaker — Cindy Brown: "Edith Meiser — A Woman of Substance" |
| November 6, 2022 | 62 attendees; Guest speaker — Jim Hawkins, BSI: "John Bennett Shaw and Ron De Waal" |
| December 4, 2022 | 65 attendees; Guest speaker — Joe Eckrich, BSI: "Shaw's 100 — What is Important to Have" |
| December 10, 2022 | Crew 50th Anniversary Party |

2022 marked the 52nd 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 12 monthly virtual meetings by Zoom, which follow a standardized format: Opening toast; Quiz on the story of the month; Discussion of the story, wonderfully led by Bob Katz, BSI; Announcements; Guest presentation; Lightning quiz; and Closing toast written by Rich Krisciunas on the Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society.

On December 10, over 20 of the local members gathered to finally celebrate our 50th anniversary (pandemically delayed) at the home of one of the finer members, the Olsons. Mementos and memories abounded.

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

In November 2022, the Crew published its sixth annual book, *The Rest of the Story*, a compilation of 22 wonderful essays or pastiches by members which looked at where Watson left off, or left out, of the stories of the Canon. A free copy (.pdf, Kindle, Nook) can be found on our website.

At the end of 2022, the Society has 269 members.

For more information, please email Steve Mason at mason.steve8080@gmail.com or visit our website at www.dfw-sherlock.org.

*The John Openshaw Society (Houston) — Brian Clark*

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| January 23, 2022 | meeting via Zoom |
| March 13, 2022 | in-person play (*An Evening with Sherlock Holmes* at Theatre Suburbia) |
| March 20, 2022 | via Zoom |
| May 22, 2022 | via Zoom |
| July 31, 2022 | via Zoom |
| September 18, 2022 | via Zoom |
| November 13, 2022 | in-person brunch |

The Houston-focused BSI scion known as the John Openshaw Society (hereafter the "JOS") was chartered in late 1980 by Dr. Thomas Harman and Dr. Warren Chaney. The group hosted regular meetings for many years, many of them frequented by up to fifty local members. Around 2011 the JOS experienced a renaissance courtesy of Ken Rozek with organizational support from Peter Blau, plus contributions from the original founders. Brian Clark assumed supervisory responsibilities as the so-called "First Pip" in 2016.

For the JOS, 2022 continued the pandemic-initiated trend of mostly virtual meetings, but we also worked a few in-person events into the mix. Going forward we plan to move to a more regular and stable schedule of virtual meetings interspersed with in-person social events. In theory, this approach will enable us to stay in touch with the global Sherlockian community while leveraging the magic of web conferencing tools to host presentations without the pesky physical challenges of collapsing screens, incompatible projector cables, and amplification anomalies. Social events will be altogether social; deerstalkers optional.

For posterity, here's a quick rundown of the speakers at our 2022 meetings:

In January, our speaker Timothy Kline discussed his impressive collection of Sherlockian games, and our quiz covered "The Dancing Men."

In March, our members attended a matinee of An Evening with Sherlock Holmes staged by a local production company, Theatre Suburbia with our own Arnold Richie starring in the role of Sherlock. Following the play, around a dozen of us went to dinner with some of the cast. We also held a virtual meeting in March where guest speaker Cindy Brown regaled us with a discussion of the "Bad Guys I Love to Hate from the Sherlockian Canon." Our quiz was over "The Solitary Cyclist."

May's meeting brought the return of guest speaker Richard Krisciunas (of the Amateur Mendicant Society in Detroit, Michigan, among others) with another lawyerly lesson: he provided a criminal attorney's point of view and evaluation of the probability of obtaining convictions in a number of Sherlock's cases. Our quiz addressed "The Priory School."

During our July meeting, we featured the famous multi-scion and Moriarty-focused Madeline Quiñones. She presented "Colonel Moran as a Watson" to our group, followed by a lively discussion. Our quiz was on "Black Peter."

In September, our own Jane Almquist took us through a "Trifles" episode from the I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere podcast, one talking about the British Monarchy — a minor tribute marking the passing of Queen Elizabeth. Our quiz for this meeting was over "Charles Augustus Milverton."

After numerous logistical complications, we decided to push our virtual meeting to December, and to make our November meeting an in-person social gathering. We took advantage of some lovely fall weather and enjoyed an animated Sunday afternoon brunch in the open, airy patio room at La Grange Cantina.

And in December, our meeting featured eminent guest speaker Jerry Kegley (from the Case of the Curious Collectors) who took us through his presentation, "Men of Mystery." We took a quiz on "The Six Napoleons."

For more information about the John Openshaw Society, please visit https://johnopenshaw.org/ or email Brian Clark at clarkbt@gmail.com.

*The Retired Colourman (Dallas) — Jim Webb*

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| January 5, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |
| February 9, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |
| March 9, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |
| April 6, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |
| May 4, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |

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| June 8, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |
| July 6, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |
| August 10, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |
| September 7, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |
| October 5, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |
| November 9, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |
| December 7, 2022 | Lunch the Londoner Pub |

The Retired Colourman of Dallas continues to meet on the Wednesday after the first Sunday of the month. The group is primarily the leadership team of the Barque Lone Star and serves as our planning team for both the monthly meetings and the upcoming symposium in May 2023 at Southern Methodist University. Everyone is invited to attend, but as it is a lunch meeting, the group is relatively small.

*The Diogenes Club of Dallas — Jim Webb*

The Diogenes Club of Dallas is dormant right now as COVID limited speaking to schools and groups last year. Hopefully, we will pick back up this year.

## Vermont

*The Baker Street Breakfast Club (Bennington) — Jeff Bradway*

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| January 6, 2022 | Zoom Birthday Celebration: Favorite Canonical Story |
| February 12, 2022 | Zoom discussion of *The Valley of Fear* |
| March 12, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "Wisteria Lodge" |
| May 21, 2022 | Zoom discussion of "The Cardboard Box" |
| July 16, 2022 | In-person discussion of "The Bruce-Partington Plans" |
| September 10, 2022 | In-person discussion of *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* |
| November 19, 2022 | In-person discussion of *Good Night, Mr. Holmes* |

The Baker Street Breakfast Club was founded in 1990 and became a scion of the Baker Street Irregulars that same year. Sally Sugarman was its founding Gasogene; Jeff Bradway succeeded her in December, 2020. All that 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."

This year, we decided to begin meeting every other month. In good weather, we have been meeting outdoors at a member's home; otherwise, we have met at our local Unitarian-Universalist Meeting House. We also decided to move our meetings earlier in the day; so, instead of potluck dinners, we have afternoon appetizer meetings. Another change is that we have started to discuss some of the major pastiches in addition to stories from the Canon. In the new year, our January brunch will feature screening of a couple of the shorter Sherlock Holmes films, one with Peter Cushing, one with Douglas Wilmer.

Our quarterly newsletter, Groans, Cries and Bleatings, which goes out to 160 Sherlockians, continues to be published. Sadly, our Editor Irregular, Joe Cutshall-King, passed away in early October. Jeff Bradway took over editorial duties (adopting the title, "Editor Slightly Irregular"), and our faithful contributors continue to supply excellent content. Another early member of our group, and one of the newsletter's co-founders, Steve Seitz, also passed away. Steve was also author of a number of Sherlockian pastiches. Since the passing of Sally Sugarman, our Facebook page has been without a central driving force, but people continue to contribute to it. We are contemplating retiring our website, along with our dues, most of which went to pay for the website.

The majority of the year's meetings were held via Zoom, but in the second half of the year, we did begin to meet in person once again. Since COVID, our numbers have dwindled to a devoted few. We are trying different formats, subjects of discussion, games and other activities to bring renewed interest in our meetings.

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

## Washington, DC

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

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| March 26, 2022 | Spring meeting. Speaker: Jerry Margolin |
| June 4, 2022 | Summer meeting with Sub-Librarians. Speaker: Marsha Pollak |
| October 1, 2022 | Autumn meeting. Speaker: Dan Stashower |
| December 17, 2022 | Winter meeting. Speaker: Ashley Polasek |

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 shift between meeting at a restaurant in the DC area and being held virtually. Alan Rettig's production expertise and Peter's excellent emceeing ensure that both versions of our meetings run smoothly. Video of many of our speakers is available at www.redcircledc.org.

Jerry Margolin's "Art in His Blood" online presentation at the March 26 Red Circle meeting was well-received, with many questions and comments from the audience. A rotating gallery from his collection is available on The Red Circle website under Jerry's Gems. Thank you, Jerry, for generously sharing your collection.

The District ChopHouse and Brewery hosted The Red Circle's joint meeting with the Sub-Librarians Scion, which took place in June, during the American Library Association's annual meeting in Washington, DC. Speaker Marsha Pollak's talk was entitled "By The Book: The where-are-we-this-year world where Holmes and the library universe intersect."

On October 1, multi-award-winning author and Red Circle member Dan Stashower gave us many remarkable insights into his new book, *American Demon: Eliot Ness and the Hunt for America's Jack the Ripper*. Dan's online presentation generated enthusiastic audience comments and questions.

The Red Circle returned to Alfio's La Trattoria for our winter meeting with speaker Ashley Polasek. Her topic was "Ken Ludwig's 'Moriarty': Workshopping a Textbook of Friendship." Much to everyone's delight, Ken Ludwig also attended, and joined in the Q&A session after Ashley's talk.

For more information on The Red Circle and on our upcoming events, please visit our website 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*

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| January 2, 2022 | Holmes Birthday Celebration at Benvenuto's Italian Grill |
| January 16, 2022 | Discussion of *The Sign of the Four,* Chapters 7-12 |
| February 20, 2022 | Discussion of "A Scandal in Bohemia" |
| March 20, 2022 | Discussion of "The Red Headed League" |
| April 17, 2022 | Discussion of "A Case of Identity" |
| May 15, 2022 | Discussion of "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" |
| June 19, 2022 | Discussion of "The Five Orange Pips" |
| July 17, 2022 | Discussion of "The Man with the Twisted Lip" |
| August 21, 2022 | Discussion of "The Blue Carbuncle" |

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| September 18, 2022 | Discussion of "The Speckled Band" |
| October 16, 2022 | Discussion of "The Engineer's Thumb" |
| November 20, 2022 | Discussion of "The Noble Bachelor" |
| December 18, 2022 | Discussion of "The Beryl Coronet" |

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. Meetings in 2022 were held virtually, using video-conferencing software, until the summer. After that, we switched to a hybrid model where we would meet in person at either the Fitchburg Public Library or Memorial United Church of Christ in Fitchburg, with a virtual component added for any member who wanted to join in that fashion.

Our social reading/movie-watching offshoot, the *Comrades of the Order*, completed reading the Raffles short stories by E.W. Hornung. We then began reading Dorothy Sayers' Lord Peter Wimsey stories, starting with discussion of *Whose Body?* in August. That project continues this year. A subset of folks also christened a new scion of the Sherlockians Preventing Oysters Destroying the Earth (SPODE) — known as "Cap'n Basil's Mignonettes" — in June at *Sardine* (restaurant) in Madison.

A few members watched and had lively discussions about the *Knives Out* sequel, *Glass Onion*, via email threads. In October, a contingent read *A Night in the Lonesome October* together; this is the second year our members have followed that schedule. In 2023, we again plan to read one chapter each night in October.

Max, Johanna, and Barry enjoyed the conference held by the Norwegian Explorers to celebrate the opening of the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the Minnesota History Center. Soon thereafter, Diane and Max visited the Alcuin Library at St. John's College to view the St. John's Bible (a monumental work of art and faith) and then went back to Saint Paul to attend the Norwegian Explorers' Annual Dinner and Business meeting. The featured speaker was Sherlockian collector Glen Miranker, who gave a talk exploring the differences between the first American editions of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and one singular item in his collection.

Diane also traveled to London and other locales in England and sent back correspondence of her epic walking tours, many with Sherlockian connections, that we all enjoyed vicariously. Glen traveled with his son to Edinburgh — where he reported that their Sherlock Holmes statue was still in storage—

and London, where they visited the SH Pub, and toured filming locations of BBC Sherlock in a black cab (unfortunately not a Hansom).

Our group corresponds online at NCT1969@googlegroups.com, and 2022 saw the debut of our first website in several decades, CanaryTrainers.com, and the creation of our scion's first lapel pin (as far as we know).

*The Original Tree Worshippers of Rock County (Janesville) — Resa Haile*

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| March 12, 2022 | View: John Barrymore *Sherlock Holmes* |
| May 14, 2022 | Sherlock Holmes documentary, *The Real Sherlock Holmes* |
| July 9, 2022 | Story: "The Devil's Foot"; Listen: "The Devil's Foot" radio play with Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce |
| August 6, 2022 | View: "Back of the Mike" — video on sound effects for radio show; Story: "The Priory School"; Listen: "The Priory School" with Clive Merrison and Michael Williams |
| September 10, 2022 | Stories: "The Problem of Thor Bridge" / "The Illustrious Client" |
| October 10, 2022 | View: Granada versions of "The Problem of Thor Bridge" / "The Illustrious Client" |
| November 5, 2022 | Stories: "The Adventure of Black Peter" / "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box"; Watch: Granada: "The Cardboard Box" / "The Blue Carbuncle"; Additional Reading Material: "The Cardboard Box" (from *About Sixty)* by Resa Haile; "She Blessed the Hand: The Case of the Defiant Daughter" by Sonia Fetherston (from *Villains, Victims, and Violets*) |
| December 4, 2022 | Holiday party at Linda's house |

The Original Tree Worshippers of Rock County was co-founded in 2010 by Resa Haile and Gayle Lange Puhl. Gayle gave a Sherlockian talk at the Hedberg Public Library prior to our first meeting, gaining us early members. Our scion's name is a reference to "The Empty House," as one of the books carried by the "poor bibliophile" in that story is *The Origin of Tree Worship*. This was a name I selected in my teen years from my prodigious if often unoriginal list of possible scion names, and it was a great joy to meet Gayle so we could make it a reality. (I once received an email from someone wanting to know whether we were a pagan group. We are not, but we welcome pagans and anyone else with an interest in Sherlock Holmes.) Our group has met monthly, with occasional exceptions, since its first meeting on May 22, 2010; auspiciously, but not coincidentally, this was Conan Doyle's birthday. Our meetings officially begin at 2:21 p.m.; the room is open at 2 for pre-meeting socializing.

Following the Original Tree Worshippers' own version of the Great Hiatus, we met again in March of 2022 to watch the John Barrymore version of *Sherlock Holmes*. Our hiatus was somewhat shorter than Holmes', from February of 2020 till a holiday party in December of 2021. In January/February of 2022, some of us attended the Beloit Civic Theatre production of "The Game's Afoot," a comic mystery that took place at William Gillette's country estate, with Gillette stepping into the role of detective.

We returned to regular monthly meetings in May. This would traditionally be the month for our special meeting to look at some of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's non-Sherlock Holmes works, but, as we were just getting started again, we postponed that subject until May of 2023. Instead, we watched a Sherlock Holmes documentary provided by member Linda Robinson.

This is our second run through the stories, and we have continued our pre-pandemic method on this run of discussing two stories in juxtaposition to each other and/or in comparison to an adaptation or adaptations.

We read "The Devil's Foot" and listened to a radio version with Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce in July, and in June read "The Priory School" and listened to the Clive Merrison-Michael Williams radio version. We also watched "Back of the Mike," a short film on the creation of radio sound effects, which we all found quite interesting. This was also provided by Linda.

In September, we discussed "Thor Bridge" and "The Illustrious Client," two stories each with a pair of women who were in opposition. We watched the Granada adaptations the following month. In November, our readings were "Black Peter" and "The Cardboard Box," two tales of bad-tempered seafaring men. We also watched Granada's version of "The Cardboard Box," which, since it had moved the time of the story from "a blazing hot day in August" to Christmastime, inspired an impromptu viewing of their version of "Blue Carbuncle." We had supplementary readings for this meeting: my "Cardboard Box" essay from *About Sixty: Why Every Sherlock Holmes Story Is the Best*, and "She Blessed the Hand: The Case of the Defiant Daughter" by Sonia Fetherston from *Villains, Victims, and Violets: Agency and Feminism in the Original Sherlock Holmes Canon*.

In December, we met at Linda Robinson's Victorian home for a holiday celebration. Linda provided several presents and we all had a lovely time. We are looking forward to more Sherlockian scholarship and fun in 2023.

You can contact us via email through reloha@gmail.com. We are also at https://rocksherlockotw.blogspot.com/ and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTW.RockSherlock/.

## Other

*The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes — Evelyn Herzog*

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| January 12, 2022 | Birthday Weekend ASH Wednesday |
| January 16, 2022 | Birthday Weekend Sunday Brunch |
| February 2, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |
| March 2, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |
| April 6, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |
| May 4, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |
| May 28, 2022 | Spring Luncheon |
| June 1, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |
| July 6, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |
| August 3, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |
| September 7, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |
| October 12, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |
| November 2, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |
| November 12, 2022 | Autumn Luncheon |
| December 7, 2022 | ASH Wednesday |

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, still reflecting the spirit of its founders in the 1960s, made a further return to in-person celebrations in 2022.

The 2022 NYC Birthday Weekend included both the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner hosted by Ira Matetsky on January 12 and Sunday brunch hosted by Tamar Zeffren and Tiffany Knight on Sunday, January 16, and editors Heather Holloway and Crystal Noll provided the year's Birthday Edition of *The Serpentine Muse* for the Friday dinner packets.

The effects of the past years' disturbances interrupted *The Serpentine Muse*'s publishing schedule. Crystal and Heather (with proofreader Evelyn) published only the fourth issue of Vol. 37 during 2022, a lively issue showcasing the group's members and friends.

The monthly ASH Wednesday informal gatherings in Manhattan held on the first Wednesday of every month (other than January) continued to be held throughout the year under the guidance of Ira Matetsky, then of Jen Kneeland and Shana Carter.

ASH's 2022 Spring Meeting was held on Saturday, May 28, at Tony's di Napoli East Side location in NYC. We first honored the lives of our late

members Allan Devitt, Paulette Greene, Priscilla Ridgway, and Edwin Van der Flaes. Then to the program, which began with our customary toasts, offered by Mickey Fromkin (Queen Victoria), Dana Cameron (Irene Adler), Bob and Alex Katz (Sherlock Holmes), Dan Friedman (John Watson), Michael Bush (Arthur Conan Doyle), and Ira Matetsky (Friendship). There followed some toasts to Canonical brides, brides-to-be, and former brides by Greg Darak (Mary Morstan), Jen Kneeland (Clotilde Lothman von Saxe-Meningen), Shana Carter (Violet Smith), and Marilynne McKay (Hatty Doran). Dana Richards spoke about the forthcoming BSI book *My Scientific Methods*, which he edited. Then we turned to themed toasts on Canonical mothers, firstly a pair of toasts in verse read by Ev Herzog in the absence of their author, Sandy Kozinn (Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Holmes, the mother of Mycroft and Sherlock), then toasts by Chris Zordan (the unnamed wife of Robert Ferguson), Margaret Fleesak (the Duchess of Holdernesse), and Karen Wilson (Mrs. James Windibank). The afternoon finished with ASH's traditional songs.

On Saturday, November 12, ASH met again at Tony's for our 2022 Autumn Meeting. Evelyn was unable to attend because of ill health, so Ira Matetsky and Mickey Fromkin served as hosts, welcoming the diners and directing the program. We commemorated the loss of ASH members June Kinnee and Richard Wein, as well as Arthur Liebman, the husband of ASH Joyce Ann Liebman. We then celebrated the addition of six new members: Cynthia Brown, Maria Fleischhack, Nancy Holder, Mark Jones, Richard Krisciunas, and Kathryn Piffat. Our customary toasts were delivered by Mickey Fromkin (Queen Victoria and the late Queen Elizabeth II), Becky Robare (Sherlock Holmes), Bruce Harris (John Watson), Hal Glatzer (Arthur Conan Doyle), and Francine and Dick Kitts (Friendship). Kate Karlson gave us a talk entitled "Miss Burnet Does the Right Thing" and Will Walsh went "In search of … Wilhelm Gottsreich Sigismond von Ormstein." We concluded with a set of toasts, some of which picked up the theme of royalty, by Al Gregory (Kings Charles I, II, and III), Burt Wolder (A Long Undersung Woman in the Canon: Brenda Tregennis), Marina Stajic (Canonical Felines), and Karen Wilson (Prince Albert). For this one occasion, we omitted ASH's closing songs, to give us a little extra time for farewells and to thwart any scurrilous Covid or head-cold germs that might have been lurking.

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

*Clients of Adrian Mulliner — Elaine Coppola*

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| January 8, 2022 | Junior Bloodstain in advance of the BSI Weekend |
| October 21, 2022 | Senior Bloodstain at The Wodehouse Society Convention |

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

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

On Saturday, January 8, 2022, a Junior Bloodstain was held at 11 a.m. EST via Zoom in advance of the BSI weekend. Aficionados of Sherlock Holmes and the stories of P.G. Wodehouse met to discuss an early short story by Wodehouse: "The Adventure of the Split Infinitive." This work, published in the *Public School Magazine*, March 1902, features Wotsing and Burdock Rose and was enjoyed for its many Sherlockian references and great humor.

On Friday, October 21, 2022, a Senior Bloodstain was held at 9:30 a.m. in the U.S. Grant Hotel during the "Where in the World is Pelham? San Diego!": The Wodehouse Society Convention. A congenial gathering of enthusiasts of Sherlock Holmes and the stories of P.G. Wodehouse enjoyed reading and discussing "The Adventure of the Missing Bee." This amusing pastiche featuring Holmes and Watson was written by Wodehouse and published in *Vanity Fair* (UK), December 1, 1904.

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

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| June 24, 2022 | 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 Illustrious Client" in which Doctor 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 and The Red Circle of Washington, DC had a joint dinner meeting on June 24 at the District ChopHouse & Brewery. It was the Sub-Librarians 44th (irregular) annual meeting and we celebrated the 90th birthday of Peter Blau. Marsha Pollak spoke on "By the Book: The Where-Are-We-This-Year Universe Where Sherlock Holmes and the Library World Intersect."

Toasts focusing on librarians were given by Ira Matetsky, David Richards and Michael Dirda while traditional Sub-Librarians toasts were given to: Lomax, the Sub-Librarian of the London Library by George H. Scheetz; Sherlock Holmes, Bookman and Special Librarian by Beth L. Gallego; Dr. Hill Barton, Library Patron by Rodney N. Henshaw (in absentia); Baron Gruner, Collector by Marsha L. Pollak; and Kitty Winter, a Wronged Woman by Christy Allen (in absentia).

Dana Richards presented us with a library-themed quiz, and we closed the program with a reading of Vincent Starrett's poem 221B.

Marsha, who has guided the Sub-Librarians Scion for the past 40 years and shared those responsibilities for several years with George Scheetz, announced the leadership of the Scion is changing. Christy Allen, the group's website administrator from Furman University Libraries, and Beth L. Gallego from Los Angeles Public Library, form the new team at the top.

We thank The Red Circle for local arrangements and CORE: Leadership Infrastructure Futures, a division of the American Library Association, for their sponsorship. The Sub-Librarians will meet in June 2023 in Chicago during the ALA Conference.

Please visit our website: https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/sublibrarians/.

*Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial, Inc. — Burt Wolder*

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| February 10, 2022 | Board Meeting |
| April 4, 2022 | Board Meeting |
| December 8, 2022 | Annual Meeting, Board Meeting |

The organization's primary initiative in 2022 was to increase awareness through an eight-page publication about Steele's work with *Everybody's*

*Magazine*, using rarely-seen illustrations for eight short stories featuring E.W. Hornung's Crime Doctor. The essay by Andrew Malec also described Steele's role as art director of the magazine. Three hundred copies were printed; two hundred were distributed to the Baker Street Irregulars on January 6, 2023, with a souvenir bookmark. Remaining copies will be shared with donors who did not otherwise receive a copy, and used to inform new audiences about Frederic Dorr Steele.

In September 2022 Harrison Hunt shared new photographs showing the general condition of Steele's gravesite and the cemetery. While the Steele plot is receiving cursory mowing, older areas of the cemetery are overgrown, due to cemetery staff shortages attributable to the pandemic. The cemetery is challenged to keep up with burials and minor maintenance, and continues to be unresponsive to our requests to schedule a memorial event at the gravesite. In 2023 we will contract with a local landscaper to provide services which are not provided by the cemetery, including ongoing care and landscaping for the gravesite.

We are planning additional fundraising for new projects in 2023, including: additional publications on an annual basis; symposia about Steele's place in the "golden age" of illustration, and his life and work; historical markers and a bench or tree at the Steele gravesite; donations to collections for conservation and display of Steele works; a traveling exhibit about Steele's life and work; potential purchases of Steele works, for donation to appropriate collections.

In December, we welcomed Dr. Richard Sveum to the organization's Board of Directors. Looking ahead, Mr. Hunt will produce a tombstone rubbing, weather permitting, for auction as part of our fundraising initiatives. The FDSMI website is in development, with a launch projected for the first quarter, 2023.

*The Fourth Garrideb — Greg D. Ruby*

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| August 18, 2022 | Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes dinner |

The Fourth Garrideb had a slow year in 2022 but still managed to hold its annual Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes dinner during the World's Fair of Money by the American Numismatic Association in Chicago, Illinois on August 18, 2022, which was enjoyed by 9 attendees. You can stay in touch with us at our website (https://FourthGarrideb.com), on Facebook (www.face

book.com/FourthGarrideb) or on Twitter (@SherlockBMore) or by joining our email list by sending an email to Greg@FourthGarrideb.com.

*The Beacon Society — Carla Kaessinger Coupe*

| | |
|---|---|
| January 5, 2022 | 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 2022 award was presented to Anna Behrens of Keene, New Hampshire.

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 15.

This past year, the Beacon Society awarded eleven Jan Stauber Grants to organizations and individuals. These grants help educators fund their Sherlock-Holmes-related programs. Beginning in 2023, the maximum grant request will increase to $1,000.

We also focus on students through the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Memorial 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. The two top high school essays are included in Belanger Books' new collection *Steel True, Blade Straight*.

Our quarterly gazette *Sherlock's Spotlight* is directed at younger readers, and includes story synopses and short articles about characters in the Canon and life in Victorian England, as well as puzzles, mazes, and other fun activities. Issues 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), and 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 Library Display Program helps 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. Several scions and societies have already taken advantage of this program.

We're very proud to announce our newest website update: a comprehensive look at the stories in the Canon. This resource contains general and story-specific information that's useful to Sherlockians from newbies to seasoned veterans. All of the information is easily accessible and available in one convenient place.

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.

*Bouchercon — Richard Sveum*

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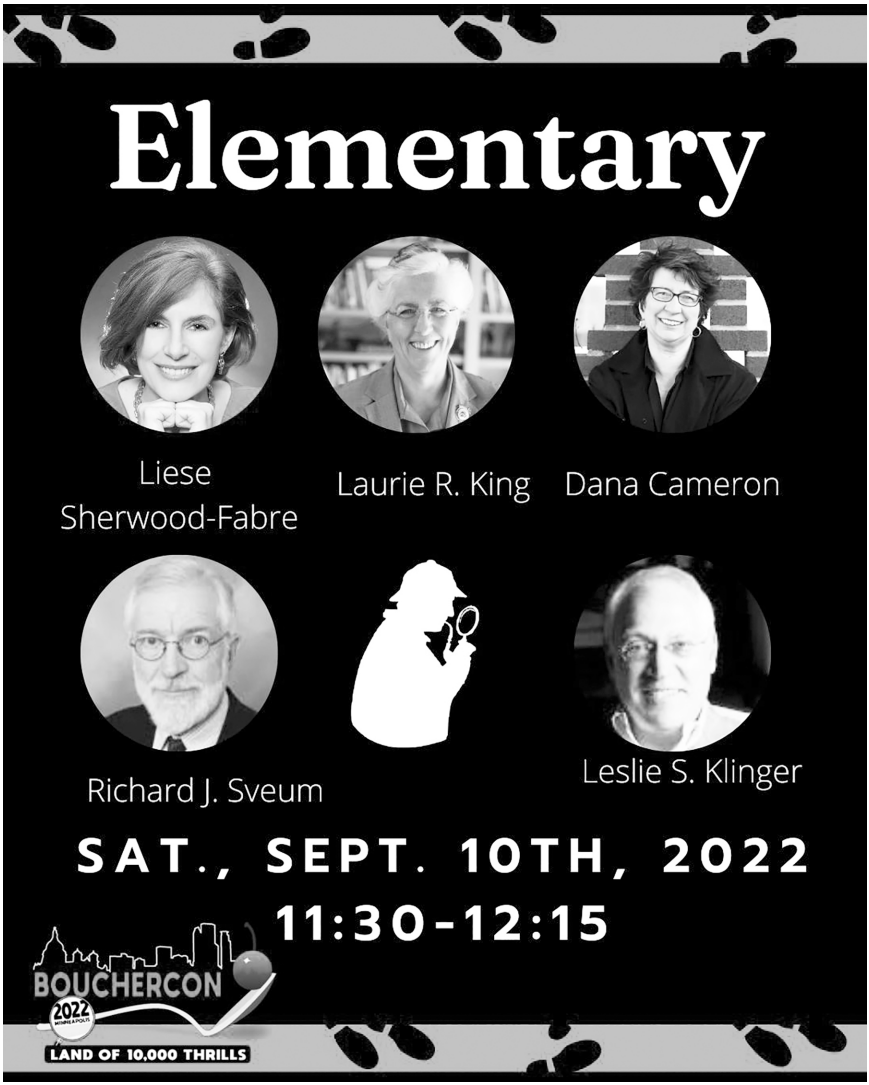
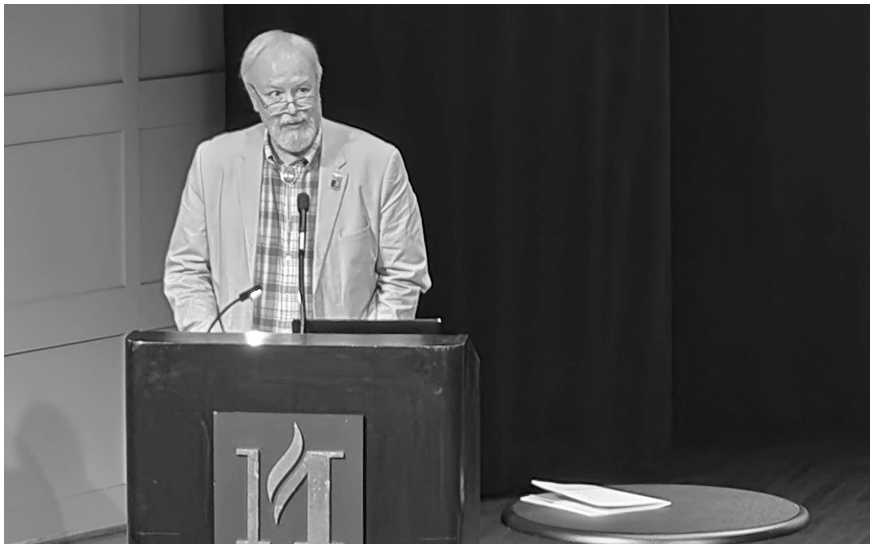
| September 10, 2022 | 53rd Bouchercon |

Bouchercon, the World Mystery Convention named in honor of Anthony Boucher, the distinguished mystery fiction critic, editor, author, and noted Sherlockian, was held at the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel. Sherlockians attending gathered for a dinner at J.D. Hoyt's Supper Club organized by Les Klinger. Bouchercon traditionally has a Shelockian Panel moderated by Peter Blau, who chaired the 1980 convention in Washington, DC. Richard Sveum moderated the 2022 Sherlockian Panel titled "Elementary: Sherlock Holmes." The panel consisted of a doctor, two PhDs, a lawyer and a theologian. Authors on the panel included: Dana Cameron, Laurie R. King, Leslie S. Klinger, and Liese Sherwood-Fabre. Panelists discussed how Sherlock Holmes changed crime fiction and criminal investigation and then focused on the question of whether the Sherlock Holmes stories are mysteries or adventures. The audience then engaged the panel in a lively Q&A session.




Bouchercon poster by (and copyright by) John Thomas Bychowski.



Tim Johnson presenting "Mr. Holmes Comes to Minnesota: A Study in Maroon and Gold." Photo by Monica Schmidt.

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*The Timeless Sherlock Holmes — Richard Sveum*

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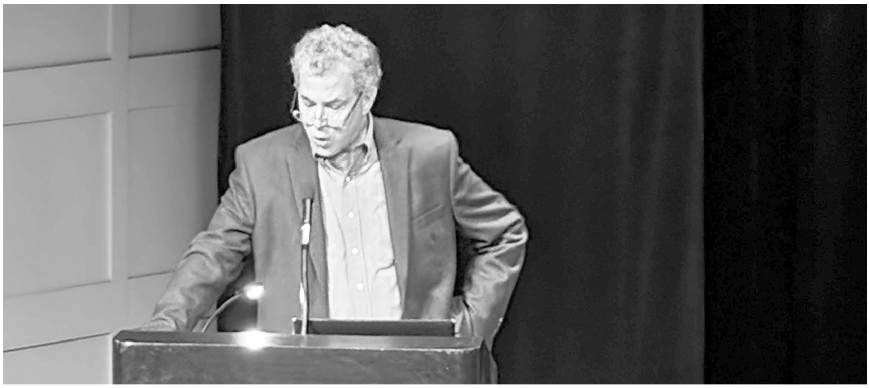
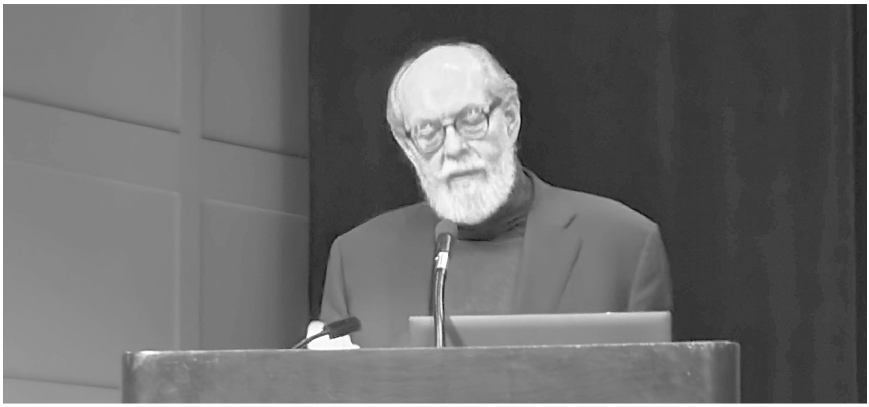
|---|---|
| October 22, 2022 | Sherlockian conference in St. Paul, MN |

The Minnesota Historical Society is hosting Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition at the Minnesota History Center from October 2022 through April 2, 2023. For the opening, the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries Sherlock Holmes Collections presented a mini-conference, emceed by Dick Sveum. Julie McKuras introduced *New York Times* bestselling author Dan Stashower who spoke on, "A Study in Splatter: Behind the Scenes of the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes." Matthew Dacy's (Mayo Clinic) talk, "Dr. Philip S. Hench at the Mayo Clinic and in the Company of Sherlock Holmes" and included the movie Finding Substance X: The Team That Discovered Cortisone. Tim Johnson, the E.W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, presented "Mr. Holmes Comes to Minnesota: A Study in Maroon and Gold." Tom Gottwalt, President of the Norwegian Explorers, introduced Steven Swenson from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension who spoke about "Forensic Science and Sherlock: The Exhibition." He transformed the audi-





Top: Dan Stashower delivers "A Study in Splatter: Behind the Scenes of the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes." Below: Jeffrey Hatcher thrills the crowd with "Sherlock Holmes on Stage and Screen." Photos by Monica Schmidt.

torium into a crime scene and in real time illustrated the forensic technology at work. The final speaker was playwright and screenwriter Jeffrey Hatcher speaking on "Sherlock Holmes on Stage and Screen" was introduced by Monica Schmidt. Following the talks, the conferees had the opportunity to view Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition. The exhibition was created in Minnesota in 2012 by Exhibits Development Group and Geoffrey M. Curley with the Conan Doyle Estate Limited and opened in Portland, OR at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in October 2013. The tour has taken the exhibit across the US and to Australia before finally coming home to Minnesota.

"Data, Data, Data!" from the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes. Photo by Monica Schmidt.

# Sherlock on the Web 2022

## 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 across the globe 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. We had ten meetings in 2022. We took a summer break in June and July. The talks in 2022 were as follows:

January — Presentation by Anna Behrens on the play *Trifles* and its connections to "The Abbey Grange" with special guests Catherine Behrens, and Veda Crewe from The Edge Ensemble Theatre Company.

February — Panel Discussion on "What makes for a great Sherlock Holmes villain?" with Shana Carter, Jay Ganguly, Madeline Quiñones, and Rob Nunn.

March — Steve Mason gave a talk on his Sherlockian autograph collection.

April — Robin Rowles gave us a virtual version of his London tour of "The Red Headed League."

May — Hal Glatzer gave a talk on the "Doyle Dozen," Sir Arthur's list of his top 12 Sherlock Holmes stories.

August — Derrick Belanger gave a talk entitled, "62 is True! The Case for an Expanded Canon."

September — Johanna Draper Carlson gave a presentation on her Sherlock Comics Website

October — Presentation from some of the contributors to the book *The Monstrum Opus of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Rob Nunn and Brad Keefauver.

November — An interview and Question and Answer session with Charles Prepolec and J.R. Campbell for their *Gaslight Sherlock Holmes* series.

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

December — An interview with author Bonnie MacBird on her Sherlock Holmes Christmas novel, *What Child is This?*

All of the 2022 Five Miles from Anywhere meetings were recorded and are now available on our Youtube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UC0msAhK3Awcs5cpXOj4zJ4A.

## Hounds of the Internet

*Alexander E. Braun*[*]

The Hounds of the Internet has been in existence since 1992. A recognized scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, our membership is an international mix of enthusiastic admirers of Sherlock Holmes, the world's first consulting detective, as well as of his friend and biographer, Doctor John H. Watson.

Our members (now 190+) are of all ages, nationalities, and backgrounds. Every week they receive a newsletter focusing upon one of the 60 canonical cases. This leads to spirited discussions not only of the cases themselves, but about the almost mythical long-lost London and world and times of Holmes and Watson. These exchanges extend to various subjects, such as the forensic science of the time and the interaction between the various classes making up Victorian society. The topics are varied: What did some of the unpublished cases involve? Did Holmes have a shower installed at 221B? What were some of the recipes in Mrs. Hudson's cuisine? What kinds of firearms are mentioned in the Canon? How common were airguns during those times? What kind of tunnel did John Clay dig under the streets of London to get to the Coburg branch of the City and Suburban Bank? And many, many more.

There are also ongoing evaluations of the various pastiches, movies, programs, and the many other subjects that would fall within the Sherlockian and Holmesian's pursuit of the Great Game.

The current list owner, Alexander E. Braun, arranged 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 biographer.

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[*] Alexander E. Braun is "Murray, the Courageous Orderly" in the Hounds of the Internet. Copyright 2023 Alexander E. Braun.

## The Montague Street Incorrigibles

*Brad Keefauver*[*]

The Montague Street Incorrigibles meet only once each year, on the evening corresponding with the Baker Street Irregulars' celebration of Sherlock Holmes's birthday, as a Zoom alternative for those who can't travel or otherwise wish to spend six hours or so in the company of their fellow Sherlockians on a Friday night.

Our initial Dangling Prussian virtual pub night took place on January 14, 2022, with Sherlockian jazz interludes by Josh Harvey, the puppetry of Mary O'Reilly and the Bovestrians of Ragged Shaw (a Sherlockian society entirely comprised of puppet animals), the stand-up comedy of Professor Presbury, the Soup Plate Medal awards to Canonical characters, and the swearing-in induction ceremony for new Montague Street Incorrigibles for the class of 1895. (Since it's always 1895 at the Dangling Prussian, by decades old tradition, every year's new members start in the same year, making them all equal in seniority.) Conversation is what carries the group through the long evening, however, and our thirty-nine attendees did much of that. Late in the evening our agents in New York reported in on what was going on there, and eventually we called it a night, having spent a good Sherlockian evening even if unable to travel to the traditional spots.

Lovely certificates designed by Madeline Quiñones were sent out in PDF form to all the new members in the days that followed. For more information on the Montague Street Incorrigibles and their next annual January meeting, contact bradkeefauver@comcast.net.

## The Sherlockian Chronologist Guild

*Brad Keefauver*[*]

The Sherlockian Chronologist Guild is the world's only Sherlockian society dedicated entirely to the study of John H. Watson's dates and finding the one true order of the sixty stories of the Canon. The group is entirely based around its monthly PDF newsletter, Timeline, which is particularly amenable to the three-hole punch, and the email discussions it inspires between our members.

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[*] Brad Keefauver is, most recently, the author of *Holmes in an Hour or Two*, and runs the Montague Street Incorrigibles and the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild.

[*] Brad Keefauver is still, most recently, the author of *Holmes in an Hour or Two*, and still runs the Montague Street Incorrigibles and the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild.

The year 2022 began with Vincent Wright's discovery of the first Sherlockian chronologist, Helen Elizabeth Wilson, whose 1898 work "The Life of Sherlock Holmes" elevated her to the role of the guild's patron saint. In April, members were treated to Brad Keefauver's printable Sherlockian Chronology Sorting Deck, which he had used to lead a session in chronology work at 221B Con in Atlanta. In July, guild member Bruce Harris published *It's Not Always 1895: A Sherlock Holmes Chronology*, and cited the Sherlockian Chronology Guild as an influence in its creation. November saw a second chronology work published by a guild member, *Holmes in an Hour or Two: Create Your Own Timeline of Sherlock Holmes's Life in the Shortest Time Possible* by Brad Keefauver, a workbook whose existence owes itself entirely to the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild's influence.

In December we concluded the year with our largest issue of the newsletter yet, containing lengthy articles by Bruce Harris, Bill Cochran, and Peter Liddell which are still being discussed in email conversations. The Sherlockian Chronologist Guild ended its second year with twenty-five "public" members and nine "private" members, up substantially from its original trio of chronologists, Wright, McSwiggin, and Keefauver.

# Sherlockian Groups and Societies
## A Directory

*Mike McSwiggin*[*]

What follows is a list of Sherlockian groups and societies, broken down as geographic, professional, or other. Geographic-based groups are arranged by state for groups in the United States and by country for outside of the United States. Professional groups are listed alphabetically (each listing describes the profession represented). Finally, the category "Other" contains groups that are either internet-based, American national groups (not confined to a particular state), or simply unclassifiable. Eternal thanks to Peter Blau, BSI, who is the keeper of lists and general fount of knowledge for all things Sherlockian. We have used mailing address contact information supplied to him by the following groups, augmented wherever possible with updated email addresses, websites, and Facebook groups.

As with all topics in this Almanac, we look to you, the reader, to supplement our understanding and knowledge. If your group needs updated contact information or is missing entirely, please let us know. Ideally, we would like email, website, and/or Facebook group information, along with the group's name and any other pertinent information. Instagram and Twitter accounts are also welcome, when available.

In the summer of 2022, I presented a talk on Sherlockian societies around the world (those outside of the United States and the United Kingdom). Our editor, Ross Davies, thought this would be a good fit for the Empire Conference. I utilized many of the listings herein to contact folks to get information about the history, current activities, and other interesting aspects of many of those groups around the world. I thank them all for their kind and generous help. This exercise was proof that the folks and groups listed here are willing to help fellow Sherlockians, which is all any of us could hope for!

As mentioned last year, I still am using the old school snail mail route to resolve the status of a few groups. If you are the lucky (or unlucky) recipient of one of my letters, please respond either by post or by email (email is cheaper, so I certainly encourage that). But I appreciate (and perhaps even love) a good old-fashioned letter. Any sent to me will not be speared by a jackknife.

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!

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[*] Mike McSwiggin is "A Seven-Per-Cent Solution" in the Baker Street Irregulars.

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## Sherlockian Societies by Country

*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
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
www.facebook.com/The-Spence-Munros-212957769636/

The Cesspudlians of London, Ontario
Mark Hanson
70 Augusta Crescent
London, ON N6E 2E1
CANADA

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
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/
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
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 Pardeilhan
3, Chemin du Bedat
64160 Saint Castin
FRANCE
lepatientresidant@orange.fr

Club des hydropathes holmésiens
"Montrachet"
Rue des Boulangers
75005 Paris
FRANCE
saint-joanis@sshf.com

Evadés de Dartmoor
François Hoff
19, rue du Maréchal-Joffre
67000 Strasbourg
FRANCE
http://lesevadesdedartmoor1.free.fr

Grand dépôt de Paris de la Franco-Midland (SSHF Paris branch)
Jean-Pierre Cagnat
13, rue de l'Ancienne-Comédie
75006 Paris
FRANCE
sshf@sshf.com

Hôtel Dulong (SSHF Lyon branch)
Jean-Pierre Crauser
36 bis, rue Saint-Antoine
69003 Lyon
FRANCE
jpcrauser@gmail.com

Le Cercle Holmésien de Paris
Jean-Christophe Remont
Paris
FRANCE
https://cercleholmesparis.fr/qui-sommes-nous/
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
www.facebook.com/SocieteSherlockHolmesdeFrance/
https://twitter.com/s_s_h_f

*Germany*

Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft
Olaf H. Maurer
Wanderstrasse 31
D-67071 Ludwigshafen am Rhein
GERMANY
https://dshc.de/

*Hungary*

The Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club
HUNGARY
sherlockclub@gmail.com
https://sherlock.blog.hu
http://sherlockian-sherlock.com/

*India*

The Sherlock Holmes Society of India
Cmdt (JG) Sumal Surendranath
Principal Directorate of Law (Rm 27)
Coast Guard HQ, Natl Stadium Complex
Purana Quila Road, New Delhi 110001,
https://www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com/

*Israel*

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Jerusalem
Moshe Nalick
Kiryat Telshe-Stone 114/3
D.N. Harei Yehuda
ISRAEL
moshenalick@hotmail.com

*Italy*

Uno Studio in Holmes
Via San Gallo 77
50139 Firenze, ITALY
monterivecchi@gmail.com
http://www.unostudioinholmes.org/

*Japan*

The Circle of the Trained Cormorant
Nob Yamamoto
2-17-101 Iwaei-cho
Gifu-shi, Gifu 500-8134
JAPAN
jshc-u@bbweb-arena.com

The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club
Akane Higashiyama
Ohizumi-machi 2-55-8
Nerima-ku, Tokyo 178-0062
JAPAN
http://www.holmesjapan.jp/english/index.htm

The Men with the Twisted Konjo
Yuichi Hirayama
2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi
Tokyo 181-0012
JAPAN
shosoinbulletin@me.com

*Kyrgyzstan*

The Seventeen Steppes
Loudmila Konkova
Kurmanjan-Datka Str 271
Osh Oblast Library, Soros Res. Ctr.
KYRGYZSTAN 714000

*The Netherlands*

The Baarn Baskerville
Jan-Just Middel
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/
www.facebook.com/groups/262504147646/

*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 Alings†s
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 Ardcarn Way
Belfast BT5 7RP, Northern Ireland
UNITED KINGDOM
rocross221b@yahoo.co.uk
http://thessmayday.org.uk/

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
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

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
www.facebook.com/groups/1454146627974269

*— Alaska*

The Singular Society of the Lion's Mane
Erin Bentley
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Graham Sudbury
Box 506
Taos, NM 87571-0506

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## 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
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
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

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
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

The Black Jacks of Ballarat
emphasis on the study of supporting characters in Dr. Watson's writings
Jason Hicks
drjasonhix@gmail.com

Canonical Sleuths, Inc.
College of Staten Island adult ed class
Francine Kitts
FKitts@aol.com

A Case of Identifiers
preserving photographs of Sherlockians
Bill Vande Water
697 Greenbelt Parkway West
Holbrook, NY 11741-4216

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
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

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 & women who wear bow ties to Sherlockian events
Dan Andriacco
tankervilleclub@gmail.com
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

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

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
www.facebook.com/groups/174558085915247/

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
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

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 Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society
For licensed amateur radio operators
Ron Fish
ronf404@aol.com

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

The Strangers' Room
unofficial consulting scion
Andrew Joffe
Box 233
Craryville, NY 12521-0233
andrewgideon@yahoo.com
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
www.facebook.com/groups/648134899299548
https://twitter.com/BrokersTea

Theatre-Goers, Homeward Bound
watching Sherlockian Holmes productions online as a group
Monica Schmidt
sweeper887@gmail.com

The Vatican Cameos
Catholic Sherlockians (Catholockians)
Ann Lewis
8448 Bravestone Way
Indianapolis, IN 46239-7921
annlewis@joesystems.com
http://annmargaretlewis.com/

The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon
annual luncheon during birthday weekend
Shana Carter
gillettelunchеon@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.
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*Editors' note*: We first republished *Scuttlebutt* in the 2019 *Baker Street Almanac*, and we are pleased to continue. For a description of *Scuttlebutt* and the Spermaceti Press, see pages 73-74 of the 2019 *BSA*.

Jan 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 168th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 12 to 16; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and the events were well-attended despite the on-going pandemic, and the loss of the now-closed Roosevelt Hotel. Detailed reports on many if not most of the goings-on will be posted soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over.

Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thursday morning the ACD Society's Inaugural Doylean Awards Ceremony was held at the Mysterious Bookshop; their web-site <www.acdsociety.com> offers a link to video of the meeting.

The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Prof. Mary Bendel-Simso, on "My dear Watson…the law is as dangerous to us as the criminals": Sherlock Holmes and the Official Police" (her paper will be published in the Baker Street Journal later this year).

On Friday the Irregulars and their guests assembled for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Julie McKuras proposed the traditional pre-prandial first toast to Jennifer Olson, as *The* Woman. The annual dinner's agenda included the usual toasts, rituals, and papers (Ray Betzner paid tribute to Vincent Starrett, and Ira Brad Matetsky celebrated Rex Stout). Russell Merritt received the annual Morley-Montgomery Award (a check and an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2021, and Mike Kean announced the BSI's Birthday Honours: Laurence Deloison ("Claridge's Hotel"), Jim Hawkins ("The Hans Sloane of My Age"), Heather Holloway ("Atlanta"), David Humphrey ("Chicago Central"), Tim Johnson ("Theophilus Johnson"), Mark Jones ("Peter Jones"), Tiffany Knight ("Knight's Place"), Crystal Noll ("Crystal Palace"), Rob Nunn ("Elementary"), Aaron Rubin ("The Amethyst Snuffbox"), Jonathan Tiemann ("The Bank of England"), Janice Weiner ("Scotland Yard"), Karen Wilson ("Bartholomew Wilson"), and Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves ("Toby"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Marsha Pollak.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the traditional opportunity for dealers to assist people who wanted to add to their collections, and the agenda of the Saturday luncheon and reception included the presentation of the new Susan Rice Mentorship Award that recognizes "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes" to Peter E. Blau. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund's auction attracted enthusiastic bidders, and the raffle prize was a set of jewelry with a bee motif created by Maggie Schpak in memory of Susan Rice.

The second annual meeting of the Literary Agents was held via Zoom on Sunday morning; you are welcome to watch video of the proceedings at the "Doings of Doyle" page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/3ncb9h2w>. And for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the Adventuresses' Brunch at The Long Room.

Jan 22 #2 The splendid "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" exhibition will be on display at the Grolier Club in New York through Apr. 16; it's a wonderful opportunity to see some spectacular Sherlockian and Doylean treasures, and you can watch video of the opening ceremonies, and see images of the exhibits, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3y7pnkx3>. If you can't get to New York, you should visit the Grolier's web-site, where they have an on-line version of the exhibition <www.tinyurl.com/2p8mzssh>, and images of many more of the exhibits <www.tinyurl.com/2p85y5xy>. The catalog is available from the Grolier, and recommended.

More from the birthday festivities in New York: Gary Lovisi has uploaded a ten-minute video tour of Covent Garden West (aka the dealers room) to Youtube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNYwSWe97vo>, and you are welcome to try to identify all those people behind all those masks.

Two new titles have been published by the Baker Street Irregulars Press: *A Masterpiece of Villainy* is the new addition to the Manuscript Series (244 pp., $39.95), edited by Ross E. Davies; it offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Norwood Builder", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and on various aspects of the story (it is grand that the Manuscript Series offers readers an opportunity to come close to the moment when the stories were written, and the commentary is delightful).

*Referring to My Notes: Music and the Sherlockian Canon*, edited by Alexander Katz and Karen Wilson (173 pp., $39.95), the next title in the BSI's Professions Series, explores what Nicholas Meyer, in his foreword, calls "the possibilities suggested by Doyle when he so blithely made Holmes a violinist and an opera devotee," and the scholarship extends to discussion of musicians who have been members of the BSI, and some of the Sherlockian musicals performed on stage. Both books (and many others) can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.

*The Sherlock Holmes Review: Anthology Volume Two 1988-1990* (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2020; 131 pp., $34.95) is a reprint of the second volume of Steven Doyle's periodical, called by one critic "the last great Sherlockian journal" (it was full of scholarship in an era when there were far fewer readers than there are today). And the *Sherlock Holmes Review: 2021 Sherlockian Annual* (118 pp., $24.95) is a welcome revival that is a fine demonstration of Steve's continuing ability to find authors who have interesting things to say about many aspects of Sherlockiana. Both can be ordered at <www.gasogenebooks.com>.

More from Gasogene: *The Finest Assorted Collection: Essays on Collecting Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Peter Eckrich and Rob Nunn (232 pp., $26.95) an impressive gathering of essays written by people who pursue a wide variety of Sherlockiana and who have interesting things to say about it all. And Dan Andriacco's *The Sword of Death* (105 pp., $18.95), a nicely traditional pastiche that has Holmes and Watson investigating a case that involves a headless corpse and complicated family relationships; Dan's web-site is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.

Jan 22 #3 Joseph McBride's *Billy Wilder: Dancing on the Edge* (New York: Columbia University, 2021; 658 pp., $40.00) is a spectacular biography of an iconic film writer and director. McBride is a film historian and focuses in detail on how Wilder's life and career are reflected in his many films, including "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). Readers of the book will want to watch Wilder's films again, to see just how complex and revealing they were.

Disney honored the 35th anniversary of "The Great Mouse Detective" with an attractive ornament, kindly reported by Tim Kline, that shows Basil of Baker Street ready to head out on an investigation <www.tinyurl.com/bdef2sfd>. $24.99 from the Disney Shop; part of the "Disney Sketchbook Ornament Legacy Collection", and it's a limited release (but they don't say just how limited the release is).

The Smithsonian magazine's web-site reported on Dec. 29 on the books that entered the public domain at the end of 2021 <www.tinyurl.com/ycxfk6fx>, and noted that all sound recordings made before 1924 now also are in the public domain. And for bibliophiles, there's an older interview with Edward Brooke-Hitching <www.tinyurl.com/32bvp7w5> about his book *The Madman's Library: The Strangest Books, Manuscripts, and Other Literary Curiosities from History* (2021).

Potter & Potter Auctions will have some interesting (and often rare) Sherlockiana and Doyleana in an auction of fine books and manuscripts on Feb. 26 <www.auctions.potterauctions.com/mobile/catalog.aspx?auctionid=1127>.

Rick Boyer died on Jan. 19, 2021. He studied creative writing under Kurt Vonnegut Jr., became a writer himself, and taught English at Western Carolina University until he retired in 2008. His first novel (*Billingsgate Shoal*) won an Edgar Award in 1983, and he went on to write a pastiche *The Giant Rat of Sumatra* (1976) and four short pastiches collected as *A Sherlockian Quartet* (1999).

The Film Detective <www.thefilmdetective.com>, a classic film restoration and streaming company, celebrated Sherlock Holmes' birthday on Jan. 6 with a 20-hour "Sherlock Holmes Marathon of Mystery". There's also a podcast at the web-site, with Carl Amari playing and discussing classic old-time radio programs.

Fred Taraba (at Taraba Illustration Art) specializes in original artwork by American artists, and is offering Roy V. Hunt's colorful rendition of Holmes, Watson, and a ghostly Hound of the Baskervilles for $2,650 (plus shipping). Hunt was a dedicated Sherlockian, one of the founders of the Council of Four in Denver, and the principal illustrator of the books and journals published by Luther Norris' Pontine Press. The artwork is from Luther's collection; contact Fred <fred@tarabaillustrationart.com> if you are interested.

Vanessa Redgrave, who starred as Lola Deveraux in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) has been awarded a DBE (Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to drama in Her Majesty's New Year's Honours List for 2022. Anthony Horowitz, author of *The House of Silk* (2011) and *Moriarty* (2014), received a CBE (Commander) for services to literature.

Jan 22 #4 Nicely in time for the birthday festivities, the Yale Alumni Magazine celebrated Conan Doyle with an article by Betsy Golden Kellem about "The Man Who Believed Too Much" in its Jan.-Feb. issue, noting that in 1922 he lectured at Yale while touring the U.S. promoting Spiritualism <www.tinyurl.com/2p9cet24>. The article is accompanied by a fine portrait of Conan Doyle by Ricardo Martinez Ortega.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder ended 2021 at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast with an excellent tribute to the late Mike Whelan by seven of his fellow Irregulars <www.ihose.com/ihose231>.

Willy Werby died on Dec. 24. Well known to Sherlockians for Her meticulous recreation of the sitting-room, first displayed at 1100 California Street, on the top of Nob Hill in San Francisco, and then on the top floor of the Holiday Inn on Union Square, Willy presided over what was for many years an attraction for the members of the Persian Slipper Club, visiting Sherlockians, and tourists.

Ashley Polasek moderated an on-line session on "Arthur Conan Doyle's Afterlives" <www.tinyurl.com/mry3rkxf> at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association on Jan. 9.

The autumn issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) includes articles by Hartley R. Nathan and Charles L. Blanksteen (on "Arthur Conan Doyle: Stereotypes and Racism") and Elizabeth Savage ("In Search of Conan Doyle: Messages from the Afterlife"), and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Mrs. Hudson is alive and well, hard at work as the "agony aunt" for the British magazine Country Life <www.tinyurl.com/ycknr7ev>. But she's not our Mrs. Hudson: the magazine was founded in 1897 by Edward Hudson.

Who knew? There's an amusing connection between the British rock band The Who and the Canon, discovered by Adrian Nebbett and reported in a post to the Sherlock Holmes on Screens page at Facebook. Richard Barnes wrote all about it in *The Who: Maximum R&B* (1982), which the Internet Archive kindly offers free on-line <www.tinyurl.com/yckj4ken>.

Reported: *Sherlock Holmes: Das Kochbuch*, by Silke Martin (Münster: Hőlker Verlag, 2021; 128 pp., €24.00); in German, but reviewed in English in the Soledad Times on Dec. 30 <wwww.tinyurl.com/yckszww3>.

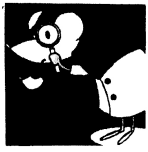
Fans of the 2019 "Detective Pikachu" film will enjoy a new fan-film animation "Detective Pikachu: A Christmas Case" that was uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 25 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=krTu8-CI2DY>. The quality is thoroughly professional.

Let me recommend this television series: "One Strange Rock" from National Geographic in 2018. It's now playing on Disney+ and available on DVD, and there's a trailer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrC4vDcWmxk>. It's not Sherlockian, but it's a splendid explanation of the history of Earth, told by Will Smith, astronauts, and many others.

Jan 22 #5 Betty White died on Dec. 31. She appeared on an experimental television broadcast in 1939 and went on to stardom in a wide range of series that included comedies, soap operas, and game shows. She made a public-service commercial broadcast in 1989 in which she encouraged viewers to read more, suggesting the Canon as a possibility ("solve a mystery with Sherlock Holmes"), and mentioned that as a young girl her favorite books were "Alice in Wonderland" and "Sherlock Holmes".

Heritage Auctions has an interesting article on-line about "The Wonderful World of Disney Maquettes" <www.tinyurl.com/4zjm86cv>, and the Great Mouse Detective will be at auction on Feb. 4-7 <www.tinyurl.com/3hjeprc6>. For those who don't remember the 1986 film, that's Basil of Baker Street.

"Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective" (a game issued by Sleuth Publications in 1981) now has an entry at Wikipedia; revised and expanded since 1981, the game now is available as four sets of ten cases each from SPACE Cowboys <www.tinyurl.com/2nyk8chw>. Their web-site offers much more information as well as a video and a free opportunity to pursue one of the cases; anyone who remembers the original game will be amazed at how far it has come over the years, how well it uses modern technology, and how long the game has lasted



There will be a performance of "Time Travel Tinies: Mystical Creatures" by story teller Dani at the National Archives in Kew (in Britain) on Feb. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/5n6dw4pe>; their web-site has an attractive Sherlockian mouse created by Cog Design (the mouse may or may not be one of the mystical creatures).

The August Derleth Society <www.augustderleth.org> was founded in the late 1970s and continues to celebrate the many-faceted literary career of the creator of Solar Pons. Membership costs $25.00 a year and includes their quarterly newsletter Sage of Sac Prairie; the latest issue offers a nicely illustrated article by Derrick Belanger on "Resurrecting Solar Pons" (with details on how the Pontine Canon was brought back into print, accompanied by a series of new pastiches by modern authors). The society's postal address is Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583.

Adrian Conan Doyle was an author and an artist, as well as a fierce advocate of his father's place in literary history. Seven of Adrian's paintings will be offered at Roseberys London in an auction on Feb. 15-16, and you can see them at <www.tinyurl.com/uef99d6a>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new Japanese film) is scheduled for release on June 17; it's a sequel of sorts to the television series "Sherlock: Untold Stories" broadcast by Fuji TV in 2019, with Dean Fujioka as Shishio Homare, a freelance crime consultant. You can see the poster and watch a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/2c4hexs6>.

*Miss Moriarty, I Presume?*, by Sherry Thomas (New York: Berkley, 2021; 353 pp., $16.00), is the sixth book in her "Lady Sherlock" series that stars Charlotte Holmes, who does her detecting while pretending to be the sister of the non-existent Sherlock Holmes, and encounters both mystery and romance while (now) in dire peril in a battle with Moriarty. The author's web-site is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.

Jan 22 #6 The 1921 census of England and Wales is on-line and searchable at the National Archives <www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>; you need to pay to see results, but the Daily Mail published an article on Jan. 6 with images of the pages listing the people at Conan Doyle's home when the census was taken <www.tinyurl.com/43jvv7cc>: the five members of the family, five servants, and three visitors: parapsychologist James Hewat McKenzie, his wife Barbara, and the American medium Ada Besinnet.

Philip Ball's *The Modern Myths: Adventures in the Machinery of the Modern Imagination* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021; 426 pp., $30.00) explores stories that have become myths because retellings of the stories have become *necessary*, from Robinson Crusoe to Batman, and (of course) including Sherlock Holmes. He suggests that Holmes is not quite what Conan Doyle intended, but rather is a "wish-fulfillment fantasy" that gives him mythic potency, and that the Sherlock Holmes myth "exists not because of but in spite of the advocacy of Sherlockians."

The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 120 people have completed all three exams and have received their Doctorate in Sherlockiana. There also are annual Re-Certification exams for those who want to continue on, and there is more information about the Program at <www.tinyurl.com/5exr3zh2>.

"Books, Bohemians, and Baker Street: A Study in Sherlock in Special Collections" is the title of a splendid on-line exhibition at the University of Delaware Library; many of the exhibits are from the collection of Mark Samuels Lasner. There are unique items such as a four-page typescript and an autograph manuscript page from the lecture Conan Doyle gave during his tour of the U.S. in 1894 (easily readable at the web-site), and the exhibition is well worth exploring <www.tinyurl.com/37rfz9m4>.

The Banished Words List for 2022 has been posted on-line by Lake Superior State University <www.lssu.edu/traditions/banishedwords>, with due attention paid to Old Irregular Bill Rabe, who launched the list in 1976. You can scroll down at their web-site to read more about Bill, and some of his other imaginative creations. You can also read an interview with his son John, who has more grand stories about his father, at Scott Monty's "Timeless and Timely" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8eh6km>.

"Extant Exhibits: The Remains of 1951" is an excellent article by Nicholas Utechin, published in the Platinum Jubilee Supplement (winter 2021) of the Sherlock Holmes Journal, and available to everyone at the web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London <www.tinyurl.com/32xywwer>; it's a well-illustrated account of his research into what has survived from the exhibition at Abbey House that led to the creation of the Society.

It's a wrap! Filming on the next "Enola Holmes" film has been completed, and there's brief footage from the celebration <www.tinyurl.com/52cpp2t8>. No word yet on when the film will stream on Netflix.

There seems to be no end to the list of buildings thought to be historic because of Conan Doyle: the attractive Torquay Pavilion, threated by redevelopment plans has its supporters, because Conan Doyle once lectured there, according to Devon Live (Nov. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/2p95nks4>. It's also considered to be important because Agatha Christie accepted a proposal of marriage after a concert there in 1903.

Jan 22 #7 The Sunday Times noted that "Britain's villages in all their diversity, prettiness and grittiness have survived and thrived over hundreds of years" in an article on "The 50 Best Villages in the UK" (Sept. 12), adding that all of them have "attractive houses, good connections, a decent school, and friendly neighbours who come together at the pub, shop and village hall." One of the villages is Minstead, where Sir Arthur and his wife Jean are buried; there are 600 or so residents and the average house price is £752,353.

For those who enjoyed Ken Ludwig's delightful "The Game's Afoot; or Holmes for the Holidays" and would like to read the script, it was published by Samuel French in 2012 and is readily available at Amazon. It's grand to see what an accomplished playwright did with William Gillette and his fellow actors at Gillette Castle in 1936.

Lyndsay Faye discussed the "10 Most Underrated Sherlock Holmes Stories" at the Publishers Weekly web-site on Jan. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/2p8k44pk>, explaining why she likes them.

The U.S. Mint's new "American Women Quarters Program" celebrates "the accomplishments and contributions made by women to the development and history of our country," and the five quarters to be issued the year will include one honoring Anna May Wong, the first Chinese-American film star in Hollywood <www.tinyurl.com/34evmznd>. She played Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), and she also was in the title of "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930), the British marionette burlesque of Clive Brook's film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929).

John Murray's new imprint Baskerville (Jun 21 #4) has now launched, with an appropriate logo <www.tinyurl.com/338rfydz>. The name of the imprint honors John Murray's long history as Conan Doyle's publisher; there's more about Baskerville and some of its new titles in an article in the Bookseller (Jan. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/2p9xtzwf>.

"Briony Lodge, Serpentine Avenue, St. John's Wood" is an address that resonates with admirers of Irene Adler. If you'd like to know more about the neighborhood, and its history (including it having been an "ideal place to keep a mistress"), there was an interesting article in Country Life (Jan. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/yhjud7ss>.

The Mystery Writers of America will honor Laurie R. King as a Grand Master at their awards ceremony in New York on Apr. 26; the award is regarded as the "pinnacle of achievement in mystery writing," and recognizes a body of work that is "both significant and of consistent high quality." The Mary Russell stories are only part of her long list of credits, and she is the fourth member of the Baker Street Irregulars to be named Grand Master (the others are Vincent Starrett, Rex Stout, and Fred Dannay).

The New Yorker has its own YouTube channel, and one the videos is "Drawing Life with George Booth" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYlRXgnapj8>; Booth sold his first cartoon to the magazine in 1969, and is still at work for them. It's a warm tribute to a great cartoonist, kindly reported by Bob Coghill, who calls your attention to the bookshelf in the office of David Remnick, editor of the magazine (at 1:21 in the 23-minute video).

Jan 22 #8 Timothy Miller's *The Strange Case of the Dutch Painter* (Jersey City: Seventh Street, 2022; 264 pp., $17.95) opens with Sherlock Holmes (using the alias Vernet in Paris in 1890), investigating theft and forgery of great art, and soon the death of Vincent Van Gogh. Vernet is accompanied and assisted by a Dr. Lermolieff (who is not Dr. Watson using an alias); the story is imaginative, nicely told, and full of twists and turns.

BBC Radio 4 has kindly made many of their Sherlock Holmes programs available at <www.tinyurl.com/3kwyewyn>; many of them starring Carlton Hobbs, and others Clive Merrison.

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).

Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Games' Afoot" is now running at the Elgin Art Showcase in Elgin, Ill., through Feb. 13 <www.elgin-theatre.org>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is being performed at the Torrance Theatre Company in Torrance, Calif., through Feb. 13; their web-site's at <www.torrancetheatrecompany.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson—Apt. 2B" will be performed at Copaken Stage in Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 1-20 <www.kcrep.org>.

Bob Bryan's new "Sherlock Holmes: Raising the Dead" will be performed at the Ole Olsen Memorial Theatre, Feb. 3-13 <www.tinyurl.com/2p9dkkp6>.

Jon Jory's "A Sherlock Holmes Radio Mystery Show" is coming up at the Hormel Historic Home in Austin, Minn., on Feb. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/4zxtaenu>.

Neil Oldham's new "A Sherlock Holmes Pantomime" will be performed at St. Bernadette's Hall in Blackpool, Lancs., Feb. 16-19; their web-site's at <www.stbparishplayers.wixsite.com/sbpplayers>.

"Sherlock Returns" (by Peter Sham and Brad Carroll) will be performed at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J., Mar. 8-Apr. 9, 2022; website at <www.hhplayhouse.com>.

The improvised comedy "Spontaneous Sherlock" will tour in Britain beginning at the Sundial Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., on Mar. 12; the website for the Spontaneous Players is at <www.tinyurl.com/67uwmsap>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" will be performed at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Apr. 14-Aug. 27 <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.

Lesley Ward's new play "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup, and Blood" is coming up at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre in Pitlochry, Scotland, June 8-July 7 <www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Feb 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Barts and The London Student Association (BLSA) have launched a petition campaign against the decision by the Queen Mary University of London to change the name of Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry to QMUL Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, noting that "St. Bartholomew's Hospital was founded in 1123, making it the oldest remaining hospital in the country. St. Bartholomew's Medical College was of course the school of Dr. John Watson." If you'd like to read and sign the petition there's a web-site at <www.bartslondon.com/wearebl>. The Telegraph had a story about the campaign on Jan. 31 <www.tinyurl.com/md695y3j>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" is one of a series of 1000-piece "classic mystery" jigsaw puzzles from Bepuzzled <www.tinyurl.com/2p9ya5w7> ($12.36 at Amazon); they come with a dire warning: "Beware! The puzzle is different from the box cover."

"Fresh Air" (produced by WHYY-FM in Philadelphia) is one of the best programs on National Public Radio, and Karen Murdock reports that on Jan. 19 Terry Gross interviewed Benedict Cumberbatch about his new film "The Power of the Dog" <www.tinyurl.com/4xu5e6xc>; there's nothing Sherlockian about the interview, but it's well done indeed.

The web-site of the Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth is well worth exploring; go to <www.tinyurl.com/2n9urv2n> to view a photograph (from the 1890s) of "Conan Doyle the cricketer" accompanied by his wife Louisa, his sister Connie, and husband E. W. Hornung.

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.

Stephen Chahn Lee's *Sherlock Holmes and the Silent Contest* (2022) is a 97-page monograph that offers his conclusions about "how Sherlock Holmes defeated Professor Moriarty and why Dr. John Watson lied." The approach to the Canon is interesting, and the book is available free from the author <stephenchahnlee@gmail.com>. You can also watch his lecture on "Sherlock Holmes and the Art of Evidence" at the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ6V0leExss>.

Sonia Fetherston, who's gathering reminiscences about Thomas L. Stix (Wiggins of the Baker Street Irregulars), would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to share first-person stories about Tom for a new book that will be published by the BSI Press <soniafetherston@comcast.net>.

The Baker Street Irregulars are the oldest of the three American 20th-century literary societies with entries at Wikipedia, and the BSI entry is at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Baker_Street_Irregulars>. It includes a list of 76 Irregulars who have their own entries at Wikipedia, and there likely are more who aren't yet on the list. In case you're wondering, the other two societies are the Norman Mailer Society and the Wolfe Pack.

Feb 22 #2 Many books, films, and sound recordings entered the public domain at the end of 2021, and there was much publicity about it all. In an article at Mental Floss' web-site (Dec. 30), Jake Rossen suggested that if you would like to write a story teaming up Sherlock Holmes with Winnie the Pooh to help solve the murder of Bambi's mother, now you can <www.tinyurl.com/2p8bts7e>.

"A Black Sherlock Holmes" (1918) was the first film made by the Ebony Film Corp., and it has been preserved, although in poor condition; you can view it at <www.vimeo.com/457274050>, and read Nikki Igbo's blog post (Feb. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/47x4v9m6> about this and other "race films" produced at a time when theaters were strictly segregated.

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, adapted by Valerie Tripp, with illustrations by Carlo Molinari (New York: Starry Forest Books, 2020; 64 pp., $7.99) is one of the titles in the "classic adventures" series of chapter books for young readers (ages 7-10); with three stories ("The Red-Headed League", "The Speckled Band", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The colorful and attractive illustrations by Carlo Molinari, can be sampled at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/2p94w4k9>.

Barry Cryer died on Jan. 25. He was a writer, comedian, radio quiz panelist, and actor, performing on British radio and television for more than 60 years. He wrote *Mrs. Hudson's Diaries: A View from the Landing at 221B* (2012) and "Mrs. Hudson's Radio Show" for BBC Radio 4 (2018), and with his son Bob a play "Mrs. Hudson's Christmas Caper" (2014).

Who was the first Sherlockian scholar? According to research by members of the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, a new candidate is Helen Elizabeth Wilson, whose article "The Life of Sherlock Holmes" was published in the Oct. 1898 issue of the Cornell Magazine, as reported in the Dec. 2021 and Jan. 2022 issues of Timeline (the Guild's official newsletter), which are available by e-mail from Brad Keefauver <bkeefauver@gmail.com>. Vincent Wright has a detailed discussion of the discovery at his "Historical Sherlock" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yxnuejmj>. He also has posted a video at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bks-LguCG7Q>, and was interviewed about his discovery by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/32dwhepm>.

Kim Newman, author of *Anno Dracula and The Hound of the D'Urbervilles*, was the Baker Street Irregulars' distinguished speaker in 2013, and Jennie Paton has reported a YouTube video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=08E5fulS6Qc> in which he explains his enthusiasm for the film "Murder by Decree" (1979).

"There will always be a war. That's the one thing one can always be sure of." -Irene Adler. That's not a quote from the Canon, of course, but instead from a teaser for Marvel's "Judgment Day" comic book due in stores this summer, and here's where it gets complicated: it already had been revealed that Destiny actually is Irene Adler, and Destiny has her own entry at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/3cjbbxry>. You can see the teaser in an article at the CBR web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yckpamad>.

Feb 22 #3 "A Study in Sherlock & His Creator: 50 Years of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection" is a new exhibition at the Toronto Public Library, running through Apr. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/5avnzvyr>. The collection was opened to the public in 1971, and the web-site includes a virtual tour of the exhibition, with images of more than 40 items on display, a large-print exhibit booklet, a reading list, and a coloring book based on items in the collection. The collection has its own interesting web-site <www.tinyurl.com/fn3szwn7>, with a link to images of 428 items in its digitized archives, and curator Jessie Amaolo narrates a video tour of the exhibition at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HgMZKq0e6k>.

Greg Darak has reported that Cimmerian Records <www.cimmerianrecords.com> has released 2-CD sets with the complete soundtrack music of both of the Robert Downey Jr. films ($24.95 each).

Telegraph posts are mentioned in the Canon (in "Silver Blaze") and it is nice to know that there is a Telegraph Pole Appreciation Society in Britain. There was a nice article about the society in Country Life (Jan. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/4dazwsjx>. And of course the society has a web-site, at <www.telegraphpoleappreciationsociety.org>.

There was lively bidding at Heritage Auctions for the Disney maquette of The Great Mouse Detective (Jan 22 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/3hjeprc6>, and it was bought for $5,760 (including the buyer's premium).

RadioEchoes <www.radioechoes.com>, noted by Roger Johnson provides a fascinating look at how much old-time radio is available on the Internet: the web-site lists 4,042 series with 110,078 episodes; for [sherlock holmes] they have 7 series with 587 episodes, and the numbers likely will be higher by the time you read this.

The Baker Street Journal's 2021 Christmas Annual is devoted to "The Dean of British Sherlockians", and Nicholas Utechin, with assistance from Roger Johnson, and Guy Marriott, have done a grand job of celebrating "the life and works of S. C. Roberts," who in many ways laid the foundation for today's world of Sherlockian scholarship and pseudo-scholarship. It's part of the annual subscription to the BSJ (if you aren't a subscriber, search for someone who is, and borrow it). You can subscribe to the BSJ, and receive the 2022 Christmas Annual) at <www.tinyurl.com/5fvmdf86>.

Sherlock Holmes was a winner on Feb. 5, at the Hipodromo Maroñas in Montevideo, and (reported by Jennie Paton) you can see him in action, with commentar in Spanish, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRtLqi6q_vw>.

Further to the discussion (Mar 14 #4) of the Indian film "Bees Saal Baad" [Twenty Years After] (1962), there was an interesting review at the Cinestaan web-site on Feb. 3 that offers a reminder of the film's many echoes of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and a link that allows you to watch the film at YouTube <www.cinestaan.com/articles/2022/feb/3/33143>. Alas, the film's in Hindi, without subtitles in English. If you want to watch the film with subtitles in English, the Bollywood Entertainment DVD is available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/msnuamsa>.

Feb 22 #4 There has been wide-spread publicity for the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" exhibition at the Grolier Club in New York in newspapers and magazines and at the Grolier's channel at YouTube, and Steve Doyle has interviewed Glen for this year's inaugural broadcast of the Fortnight Dispatch; it's available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBGAH0G4jrI>.

This year's Fortnighly Dispatch continues with a nicely interesting interview with Dan Stashower at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAYPAxeOUps>.

Leonard Goldberg's *The Blue Diamond* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2021; 320 pp., $26.99), is the sixth title 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 (and her husband) Dr. John H. Watson Jr. in 1917 at recovering a stolen 2,828-carat flawless blue diamond; they soon discover that there's far more at stake in a battle with thieves and spies. The author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

When in Bangkok: you can visit the 008 Bar in the Akyra Hotel and sample their eight cocktails that pay tribute to Sherlock Holmes; details can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/3ms6j38k>.

David Karpeles died on Jan. 19. He was a teacher and then an investor in real estate, and in the late 1970s began collecting manuscripts, eventually founding the Karpeles Manuscript Library, housed in 16 museums across the United States <www.karpeles.com>. His collection included Conan Doyle letters as well as Sherlockian and other manuscripts; see Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" for details when some of the material was sent to auction in 2016 <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/bonhams-2016-manuscripts.htm>.

Samantha Wolov has spotted an attractive machine-woven Bulldog Tapestry Panel ($8.98) that's advertised from Poland at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/y62pj63a>. It's handsome indeed, and was quickly and safely delivered.

"Don Matteo" (a popular and long-running Italian television series broadcast by Rai 1) is available in the U.S. with subtitles in English) on the MHz Choice streaming service, which has many foreign mystery series, according to Pattie Tierney. Don Matteo (who is played by Terence Hill) is a Catholic parish priest skilled at solving crimes. In the first episode he opens his suitcase at his new parish and takes out his childhood keepsakes, one of which is a drawing he made of Sherlock Holmes, by way of demonstrating his passion and inspiration as a detective.

The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2021 has "Science and Medicine" as its theme, with contributions that relate to appropriate aspects of the Canon; the 106-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, can be ordered from Phillip at 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304. $10.00 postpaid; checks made payable to the Norwegian Explorers, please, or sent via PayPal to <norexpay@gmail.com>. Back issues for some earlier years still are available.

Feb 22 #5 Larry Millett's *Rafferty's Last Case* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2022; 375 pp., $25.95), the ninth and last in the entertaining series of mysteries he began in 1995, featuring Sherlock Holmes and Shadwell Rafferty in St. Paul, is set in 1928 and begins opens with the brutal murder of Rafferty; Holmes and Watson are in pursuit of the murderer, sorting through five prime suspects in a case that also involves blackmail and corrupt politicians.

Seven paintings by Adrian Conan Doyle were at auction this month in London (Jan 22 #5), all estimated at £400-£600; one sold for £550, four sold for £280 each, and two didn't sell. You can view images of all the paintings at <www.tinyurl.com/3nzdyjbj>.

Timothy Miller, who has written two imaginative pastiches, has an interesting web-site <www.thestrangecasesofsherlock.com>, at which he posted on Feb. 14 an amusing account of "scion society hazing."

Beryl Vertue died on Feb. 12. She began her career in entertainment as a secretary at Associated London Scripts, went on to become a business manager and an important television producer. In 1979 she founded Hartswood Films, the company that created many hit series, and was executive producer of "Sherlock" for the BBC. She was appointed an OBE in 2000 and an CBE in 2016, and Benedict Cumberbatch called her "Sherlock's godmother."

Raymond Keene's "Norwegian Clue" at TheArticle web-site (Feb. 12) will be of interest to chess enthusiasts <www.thearticle.com/norwegian-clue>, and it has a link to Bill Wall's extensive list of references to chess in Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories, in Sherlockian articles and stories by others, and in Sherlockian films and television.

Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which will be at the Frost Science Center in Miami, Fla., May 14-Sept. 5 <www.frostscience.org/exhibition/sherlock-holmes>. Created by the Exhibits Development Group, the exhibition has an impressive web-site <wwwtinyurl.com/4sv5jdj3> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might consider putting it on display.

Karen Murdock, who is writing a book about figures of speech in the Canon, will be speaking about "Beyond Similes and Metaphors: Fun with Figures of Speech" via Zoom on Mar. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/2p848fna>.

For those who like to find Sherlockian connections to everything, there's an article at The Conversation (Jan. 28) <www.tinyurl.com/5n8ynptf> that manages to mention the Canon in discussion of the new game Wordle.

Netflix has released a three-minute trailer showing what its viewers can expect in 2022 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTI6T5M8Fj0&t=4s>, and there's a brief look (at 1:02) at "Enola Holmes 2". There isn't a release date yet, but here's a synopsis: "Now a detective-for-hire like her infamous brother, Enola Holmes takes on her first official case to find a missing girl, as the sparks of a dangerous conspiracy ignite a mystery that requires the help of friends—and Sherlock himself—to unravel."

Feb 22 #6 "The BBC confirmed rumours Sherlock Holmes is next to be portrayed as a 'non-nonsense, trans northerner,' according to Romeo Coates in The Critic (Feb. 2022), "with 'Baker Street' now in Bolton. As excitement mounts over casting, we're assured by a Beeb source: 'It's more true to life than anything Conan Doyle wrote.'" There is more such news at <www.thecritic.co.uk/issues/february-2022/go-west-young-man>.

Lucky Duck Games <www.luckyduckgames.com> has announced plans for a "Sherlock: Case Connection" table-top game based on the BBC's "Sherlock" series <www. tinyurl.com/45an5zxv> and <www.tinyurl.com/38sywctf>.

"Sherlock Holmes on Screens" (an interesting web-site maintained by Howard Ostrom, Thierry Saint-Joanis, and Jean-Claude Mornard) offers easy access to Sherlockian video (including a commercial that shows Holmes and Watson in diapers) <www.sherlock-holmes-on-screens.com>. There' also an interesting interview with Howard Ostrom at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/mrxas37k>.

Sherlockians can now have their cake and eat it too. Jennie Paton reports that there's now a "Sherlock" cake-topper image <www.tinyurl.com/4dw662rj> available for $11.99. You'll also need an edible printer that uses edible ink and edible paper, and they're available as well.

The Brick Show web-site reported (Feb. 14) <www.brickshow.com/2022/02-15> that a LEGO Ideas member has qualified for the company's First 2022 review stage with a spectacular Sherlockian display. LEGO certainly has come a long way since the days of simple rectangular bricks: Brandon Daniel has noted three complete rooms from 221B available from Pantasy ($89.00); the web-site even has video <www.tinyurl.com/2p86mrum>.

Patricia Srigley's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' Cat* (Montreal: WigglesWorth, 2021; 211 pp., $9.99) begins with Holmes adopting a stray cat, who helps tell irreverent and sometimes slapstick stories about their adventures and cases; the author's web-site is at <www.srigleyarts.com>.

Plan well ahead: "Lone Star Holmes: A Look at Sherlock Holmes Past, Present and Future" is the title of the conference set for May 26-27, 2023, at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. To enroll on their mailing list, just send a message to Don Hobbs <221b@verizon.net>; the festivities also will celebrate the formal opening of Don's massive collection of foreign translations of the Canon, which he has donated to SMU.

You can listen to Ross Davies and Ira Matetsky interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog about the latest addition to the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript series ("The Norwood Builder") at <www.tinyurl.com/mrxxwye4>.

Christian Klaver's *Sherlock Holmes & Count Dracula* (New York, Titan, 2021; 425 pp., $19.99) begins with Holmes being asked by Dracula for help finding his kidnapped wife Mina, and there are vampires as well as plenty of action in this greatly expanded version of three short stories that were published earlier as "The Supernatural Case Files of Sherlock Holmes" (Feb 15 #3). The author's web-site is at <www.christianklaver.com>.

Feb 22 #7 In 2010 the Baker Street Irregulars sold twenty unfinished aluminum replicas of the Sherlockian switch plate that was rescued from Edgar W. Smith's cottage at 221B Baker Street in Morristown (and is now held in the BSI Archives) <www.tinyurl.com/2xpyujy5>. Bruce Harris <marxman@comcast.net> is compiling a census of the replicas, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has one.

"The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress invites people of all ages to discover the fascinating people, places, and events that await you whenever you read" at Read.gov, and the web-site offers digitized images of books, including a pirated edition of "the book that started it all" (*A Study in Scarlet*) <www.read.gov/books/sherlock_holmes.html>.

"Reacher is the new Sherlock Holmes," Howard Ostrom suggests, in a recent post to his "Sherlock on Screens" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/ym83f683>, with video from the new series that's running on Amazon Prime.

If you've not seen the catalog for the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London in 1951, it has been scanned and made available on-line at <www.wellcomecollection.org/works/yugh4nzt/items?canvas=1>; thanks to Jennie Paton for reporting this.

Emma Hughes discussed "the nine greatest cats in literature" in an article for Country Life in 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/mrxxwye4>. Sherlockians will be glad to see that Macavity leads the list.

Johanna Draper Carlson has launched a new "Sherlock Holmes in Comics" web-site at <www.comicsworthreading.com/sherlock-holmes-in-comics>, covering comics, graphic novels, and manga; it's colorful web-site, with much worth exploring.

Benedict Cumberbatch was honored by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 28 as the 2,714th star on the Walk of Fame. You can read their press release at <www.tinyurl.com/yckp86ew>.

There's a new Sherlock, noted by Andrew Jay Peck: "Merlin IS is powered by Sherlock, the world's first AI-driven digital document bloodhound and the backbone of Merlin's Search 2.0 platform," according to the press release <www.tinyurl.com/4xmprfse>.

Planning continues for "Jubilee@221B" (the conference celebrating the 50th anniversaries of the opening of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, and the founding of the Bootmakers of Toronto) to be held at the Library on Sept. 23-25. To enroll on the mailing list, you can send an e-mail request to <jubilee_registration@acdfriends.org>.

Don Hobbs continues to expand his "Galactic Sherlock Holmes" data-base of foreign translations of the Canon (which now has about 14,000 entries in 112 different languages, and many full-color illustrations), and would be glad to hear from anyone who has found something not already in the data-base; the latest version is available on request and without charge as a large WeTransfer file <221b@verizon.net>.

Feb 22 #8 Just the thing for dinosaur fans: original artwork by Harry Rountree for "The Lost World" (ink wash and gouache on board) will be offered at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/34w97sv6> estimated at $3,000-$5,000; it's fascinating to see just how much better the original artwork was than what readers of the story in the Strand Magazine saw. That's also true, of course, for Sidney Paget's original artwork for the Sherlock Holmes stories.

*The Three Winter Terrors* (New York: Titan, 2021; 407 pp., $19.99) is James Lovegrove's latest pastiche; Holmes and Watson investigate three grotesque murders, in 1899, 1890, and 1894, all of them involving the same family, and all with a touch of the macabre. Lovegrove has information about all of his Sherlockian pastiches at his web-site <www.jameslovegrove.com>.

Theater news: John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being produced at Steeltown Coffee & Tea in Pittsburg, Calif., through Mar. 6 <www.pittsburgcommunitytheatre.org>. It's also due at the Ilkley Playhouse in Ilkley, W. Yorks., on Mar. 3-12; their web-site is at <www.ilkleyplayhouse.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Port Angeles Community Theatre in Port Angeles, Wash., through Mar. 14 <pacommunityplayers.org>; and at the Åbo Svenska Teater in Turku, Finland, through Apr. 23; their web-site is at <abosvenskateater.fi>. It's also due at the Little Theatre of Fall River in Fall River, Mass., Mar. 17-27 <www.littletheatre.net>, and it will be produced at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Apr. 1-May 14 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" (with three one-act plays) is being performed at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Texas, through Mar. 26 <www.web.theatresuburbia.org>.

Daniel Foley's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" is running at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in London, Mar. 1-6 <www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com>.

The Théâtre Sans Frontières will tour "Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band" in Britain, beginning at the Queen's Hall Arts Centre in Hexham, Northum., on Mar. 8 <www.tsf.org.uk>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be produced at Silverdale Baptist Academy in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Mar. 10-11 <www.silverdaleba.org>.

The Northern Opera Group has announced it will begin work in April in the U.K. on Lliam Paterson's opera based on "The Sign of Four"; there's more information at <www.northernoperagroup.co.uk/sherlockholmes>.

Tim Kelly's adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled by the 3rd Act Theatre Company in Oklahoma City, Okla., Apr. 8-23 <www.3rdacttheatreco.com>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Mar 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Baker Street Irregulars will celebrate Sherlock Holmes's 168th birthday at their annual dinner in New York on Jan. 6, 2023, which of course is his actual birthday. Planning is under way for the Distinguished Speaker Lecture on Jan. 5, and the Reception on Jan. 7. If you're not already receiving news and updates from the BSI, you can enroll on their e-mail list at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8n2ptm>.

There was active (and serious) bidding at Potter & Potter Auctions on Feb. 26 for some interesting (and often rare) Sherlockiana and Doyleana. You can see the catalog at <www.tinyurl.com/y3ffy3jf> and the results of the auction at <www.tinyurl.com/yc2kw4d6>.

Simon Guerrier's *The Great War* (New York: Titan, 2021; 293 pp., $14.95) is the latest title in Titan's long-running series of "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". Set in 1917 at a British field hospital, it features Augusta Watson, a VAD (Volunteer Aid Detachment) who assists nurses in the hospital and is assigned to help Sherlock Holmes an investigation of what turns out to be a complicated conspiracy; the book is more of a thriller than a mystery, but nevertheless nicely done.

Lyndsay Faye wrote about "Pastiche, Fan Fiction, and the Sincerest Form of Flattery" at the CrimeReads blog on Feb. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/mryxsbdj> and lamented that when her first book *Dust and Shadow* was published she wasn't able "to hire a plane with an advertising banner reading DID YOU KNOW THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES ARE THE AWESOMEST THINGS TO HAPPEN SINCE SUPERNOVAS?"

"Sherlock the Musical" (written by Stefan van de Graaff and Denning Burton), performed in Canada in 2017, has been filmed from a new production, with a studio cast recording uploaded to YouTube on Mar. 25; their channel's at <www.youtube.com/channel/UCGlo7-cOuNr_mn6CTc6R1Bg>, and a full filmed production will be uploaded on Apr. 26.

Karen Ellery, who presides over the Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane, would appreciate hearing about any published articles, essays, and pastiches that focus on Sherlock Holmes and tea <teabrokersmincinglane@gmail.com>.

Edwin Van der Flaes ("Victor Trevor") died in February. Born in Belgium, he emigrated to Canada in his teens and was an early member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, serving twice as the society's Meyers (president); Ed also was involved for many years as a leader in Scouts Canada, and enjoyed traveling, by car whenever possible, to meetings of other Sherlockisn so=cieties. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.

The campaign continues against the decision by the Queen Mary University of London to rename Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry as the QMUL Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (Feb 22 #1), and the "We Are BL" students have posted an update <www.tinyurl.com/2p88bhkf>; some of the newspaper articles can be read at <www.bartslondon.com/weareblresponses>.

Mar 22 #2 William Brittain was a prolific author of short stories that appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine and Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, and it's grand to see many of them back in print, thanks to Crippen & Landru, in *The Man Who Read Mysteries* (2018; 212 pp., $29.00 cloth or $19.00 paper) and *The Man Who Solved Mysteries* (2022; 316 pp., $32.00/$22.00); Sherlockians will especially enjoy "The Man Who Read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" and "Mr. Strang, Armchair Detective" (in the first volume). Crippen & Landru (Jeffrey Marks and Douglas G. Greene) continue to bring "lost classic" mystery short stories back into print, and their web-site <www.crippenlandru.com> has much to offer.

Fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" television series will recall Watson meeting Irene Adler in a scene filmed in the derelict (and atmospheric) Battersea Power Station, which no longer is as derelict as it was then; you can read about its history, and see what it's like now, in an article at the Country Life web-site on Mar. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/ymshdyzn>.

Yuichi Hirayama has noted an interesting use of the Canon: helping Japanese learn English grammar using "The Blue Carbuncle"; details available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaEVyu_H5Mo&t=8s>.

Benedict Cumberbatch was honored by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 28 as the 2,714th star on the Walk of Fame (Feb 22 #7), with only a brief mention of "Sherlock" during the ceremony. You can watch the festivities at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fkjN4_4NiE>.

Those who attended the Arthur Conan Doyle Society's inaugural Doylean Honors awards ceremony at the Mysterious Bookshop during the birthday festivities in January received an attractive and amusing limited-edition Sherlock Holmes bobblehead statuette; Ross Davies has annotated the bobblehead (and there is much to explain) at <www.tinyurl.com/22e4eda3>.

Tania Henzell (who is the step-great-great-granddaughter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) has a new video in which she explains the design of her Sherlock Holmes tartan <www.youtube.com/watch?v=--1gLIFcc6A>; her web-site is at <www.sherlockholmestartan.com>.

Potter & Potter Auctions continues to offer interesting (and rare) Sherlockian and Doylean books, as well some Derleth titles, at a sale upcoming on Apr. 26 <www.auctions.potterauctions.com/Catalog.aspx?auctionid=1131>.

The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State has announced that its annual Christopher Morley Birthday Lunch will be held in Philadelphia this year, on Mar. 7. Linda and Terry Hunt <hobokenfreestate@gmail.com> will be happy to provide more information.

Craig Rice's *Eight Faces at Three* (1939) has been reprinted in Otto Penzler's "American Mystery Classics" series <www.tinyurl.com/md78fnkv>; the book's not Sherlockian, but Lisa Lutz's introduction ("Rediscovering the Gin-Soaked Screwball Mysteries of Craig Rice") is available at the Crime Reads web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2xua2zae> and offers a grand description of the author and the book.

Mar 22 #3 John Keston died on Feb. 18. Born in London, he started his stage career as a singer, moved on to acting, and played Sir Edward Leighton when the Royal Shakespeare Company brought its revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" to the U.S. in 1974. His obituary in the Telegraph (Mar. 7) noted that he decided to stay in the U.S., teaching both voice and classical singing, and continued to perform on stage, eventually becoming an ardent and record-breaking runner.

The Grolier Club's channel at Vimeo <www.tinyurl.com/bde62x42> offers recorded recordings about the exhibitions, including "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Glen S. Miranker" exhibition. There's another lecture by Glen at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb96PIH8rHg>.

There has been considerable publicity about the discovery of the Endurance (10,000 feet below the surface of the Weddell Sea in the Antarctic); this was the ship that Sir Ernest Shackleton used in his attempt to reach the South Pole in 1915. As reported earlier (Apr 16 #1), a photograph of his cabin showed the books he took with him on the expedition, and one of them was E. W. Hornung's RAFFLES, which Hornung dedicated to his brother-in-law Conan Doyle. You can see the photograph, and a list of all the books, at <www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35633374>. The site was declared a historical monument in the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, so the book (or what's left of it) will remain there undisturbed.

The N.Y. Post noted (Mar. 11) a Wikipedia-style (crowd-sourced) web-site called Book Trigger Warnings <www.booktriggerwarnings.com> at which people can enter warnings about books with content that might be dangerously offensive. More than 6,000 books have been flagged, including some of the Sherlock Holmes stories <www.tinyurl.com/2p9c39hr>. *A Study in Scarlet* is the most dangerous, with warnings for: blood, drug addiction, forced marriage, homophobia, kidnapping, murder, persecution (Mormons), poison, racism, and stalking.

"A Celebration of Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of this year's DePaul Pop Culture Conference <www.tinyurl.com/5n6ntm73> at DePaul University in Chicago on May 7, featuring Arwel Wyn Jones (production designer for "Sherlock") Tom Ue (editor of *Fan Phenomena: Sherlock Holmes*), and Ashley Polasek (author of *Being Sherlock*).

Gary Lovisi's *A Sherlock Holmes Notebook* (Eureka: Stark House, 2022; 198 pp., $15.95) offers a wide-ranging collection of reprints of his many articles and essays about Sherlockiana (and Doyleana); there's a warm tribute to John Bennett Shaw, discussions of plays and films, and much more. Gary has been collecting, and writing about collecting, for decades, and his YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/2p84d4du> shows just how varied his interests are.

Ron Fish continues to publicize meetings of Sherlockian societies via his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; it's a great way to find out what's happening, where and when. You can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send information about upcoming meetings to him at <ronf404@aol.com>.

Mar 22 #4 The Times reported (Mar. 14) that the government of Kazakhstan has arrested Kairat Satybaldy, nephew of the country's former president Nursultan Nazarbayev, who ruled the country for three decades; Satybaldy has been charged with abuse of power and embezzlement of funds. Nazarbayev's daughter Dariga Nazarbayeva, and her son Nurali Aliyev, were named two years ago (Mar 20 #3) as owners of Park View Residence at 215-229 Baker Street <www.parkviewresidence.co.uk>, the building that retains the façade of Abbey House, where Abbey National for many years provided a secretary to answer mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes at 221B.

Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch continues with an interesting interview with Mike Kean (the BSI's Wiggins) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=erU_4hAW_Gs>. His next guest was Mark Gagen (Steve's co-conspirator at the Wessex Press and the BSI Press) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKzB5KVJcrI>.

> His clients—Colonel Ross, whose racehorse flees,
> Or Violet Hunter, seen at Baker Street,
> Who crops her locks of hair—would all agree,
> This haughty, hawkeyed Brit's a bit offbeat.

Observed by Karen Murdock in The New Yorker (Dec. 27, 2021) in a puzzle "In the Doggerel House" by Andy Kravis and Liz Maynes Aminzade, who ask, "Can you identify the literary work or series that each poem is about, and find the character whose name is hidden within?" You'll have no trouble identifying the literary work or series, but can you find the character?

The Original Theatre Company/Octagon Theatre Bolton touring production of John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has been recorded and will be streamed on-line from Apr. 14 to July 31; early-bird tickets are available at <www.tinyurl.com/44e6wruj>.

Irish historian Turtle Bunbury has a new podcast "Turtle Bunbury's Global Irish" that recounts the stories of people who left Ireland to make their mark around the world; Lola Montez (thought by some to have been the inspiration for Irene Adler) will be featured on Apr. 11, and Arthur Conan Doyle on Apr. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/2p9ff7t9>.

The Baz <www.tinyurl.com/3cwb4rh2> is a Basil Rathbone blog, noted by Jennie Paton, where you will find Marcia Jessen's interesting discussion of the German versions of the Universal Films (which of course were not released in Germany during WW2).

Baker Street West, in Jackson, Calif., continues to offer podcasts, dramatic readings, and much more <www.bakerstreetwest.com>; it's one floor up from the Hein & Co., used-book store, and they recently received some nice (and colorfully illustrated) publicity, with mention of their recreation of the sitting-room, at the Time Out web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ynvenrs2>.

The Festival de cine Fantástico de Canarias [Canary Islands Fantastic Film Festival] presented an honorary award in 2021 to Nicholas Rowe (who played Sherlock Holmes in two films); Jennie Paton notes video of the award presentation and the interview with Rowe <www.vimeo.com/688824999>.

Mar 22 #5 Sherlock Holmes continues to be popular in Japanese manga and anime, and one of the weirdest incarnations surely is Oshiri Tantei [The Butt Detective]; the latest film features the master criminal Shiriarty <www.tinyurl.com/3xbdwmrb>. You can also watch the trailer for an earlier film <www.youtube.com/watch?v=047VMJlBZxQ>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton (you can set the subtitles for English).

Did you find the character in that little poem on the previous page? He's in "crops her locks".

Gary Lovisi's *Sherlock Holmes in Oz* (Cabin John: Wildside Press, 2022; 141 pp., $12.99) brings Holmes and Watson to Oz, pursuing the Red Poppy Menace and endeavoring to rescue Dorothy Gale (the great-niece of Watson's wife); they encounter L. Frank Baum, and many of the characters he created.

How they got their start: Rob Lowe, an American actor. director, producer, and podcaster, made his acting debut at the age of 15, according to Wikipedia, but he first appeared on stage at the age of 12, as Billy in Thomas Hinton's "Sherlock Holmes: A New Adventure" at Wright State University in Fairborn, Ohio. You can read all about it in the Dayton Daily News, Mar. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/2s3e7ne4>.

Yes, Nicholas Rowe did play Sherlock Holmes in two films, in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) and thirty years later in "Mr. Holmes" (2015) in the black-and-white film Ian McKellen sees in a theater.

The Legion of Zoom, a Sherlockian society that was founded late last year to reflect the Age of the Pandemic <www.tinyurl.com/2p8zv245>, continues to attract members; Edith Pounden, Rick Krisciunas, and Steve Mason (some of the ringleaders) were interviewed recently by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/3tye8fhz>. Don't confuse the society with the other one <www.tinyurl.com/9dvb94zc>. Or the one in Kansas City <www.tinyurl.com/2btkbcwd>.

For those who (mistakenly) believe that the Blue Carbuncle was a blue diamond: the De Beers Cullinan Blue (15.10 carats, step-cut) will be offered at auction at Sotheby's in Hong Kong on April 27; read about it, and watch a video, at <www.tinyurl.com/3aruc6m5>. Town & Country had an interesting article about blue diamonds (Feb. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/2p83d3nn>.

The "Sherlock Holmes" electric locomotive, which ran on the Metropolitan Line in London for many years and was restored to service four years ago (Jun 18 #2), will be running on the North Norfolk Railway this summer, acaccording to Rail Advent (Mar. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/38buudr2>; the story includes an amusing image showing how the locomotive arrived in Norfolk.

Paulette Greene died on Dec. 6. She was a mail-order used-book dealer in Rockville Center, N.Y., in the 1980s, and her catalogs were helpful indeed to Sherlockian collectors; she also published Sherlockian books by Trevor H. Hall and Madeleine B. Stern, and interesting Sherlockian artwork by her son Sam. At the end of the 1980s she announced that she was retiring, and moved to Boca Raton, Fla., but continued to be active as a dealer.

Mar 22 #6 The 39th issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 73 pages of articles, quizzes, recipes, pastiches, and reports on the society and its members. It costs $14.00 postpaid ($25.00 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.

Rob Nunn has issued a call for contributions to his upcoming *The Monstrum Opus of Sherlock Holmes: A Compendium of Horrors Dr. Watson Dared Not Tell* (not pastiches, but rather "scholarship that plants its tongue firmly in check"); the deadline is July 31, and there's more information at his Interesting Though Elementary blog <www.tinyurl.com/3h9v7v6r>.

The Sherlockian Chronologist Convention for this year has been canceled, Ira Matetsky has announced, because "They couldn't agree on the date."

One page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be up for bids at Heritage Auctions on June 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2hw5dts6>. It's page H37 in Randall Stock's census, and there's more information about it at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/5n7bahk8>.

Nicholas Meyer will be the keynote speaker at "Jubilee@221B" (the conference that will celebrate the 50th anniversaries of the opening of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library and the founding of the Bootmakers of Toronto) to be held at the Toronto Reference Library on Sept. 23-25. To enroll on the mailing list, send an e-mail request to <jubilee_registration@acdfriends.org>.

Priscilla Ridgway died on Feb. 23. She was executive director of the Mystery Writers of America for many years, went on to work at the New England Society of N.Y.; she enjoyed theater, opera, and concerts in New York, and a good friend of many in the Sherlockian world.

Paddington Station, which opened only a few days after Sherlock Holmes was born, is mentioned in five of the Canonical stories, and Country Life had a nice article on-line (Mar. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/2tzedhjf> about the history of this London landmark.

Fans of the 1940s Universal films about Sherlock Holmes will remember Rondo Hatton, who played the Hoxton Creeper in "The Pearl of Death" (1944). The Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Awards, which were launched in 2002 at a fan-based web-site and recently reported by Ann Marlowe, can be explored at <www.rondoaward.com>.

Broadway World reported on Feb. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/yk2p9fvt> that the American Lyric Theater has launched an Aria Access Project, "a free hub of downloadable contemporary aria sheet music" intended for singers who are asked to audition at 21st-century aria. One of the operas is "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant" (by Evan Meier and E. M. Lewis), first performed at the National Opera Center in New York in 2015. Three soprano arias from the opera are available (with sheet music and lyrics) for download at <www.altnyc.org/aap-soprano>.

Mar 22 #7 The imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká that shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes <www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2>, on display in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, is not easy to see, but the Garden will be open to the public during an evening fund-raiser (with food and drink available) on July 21 <www.tinyurl.com/2fpcahze>.

Don Hobbs has reported an interesting discovery in Yr Herald Cymraeg [The Welsh Herald] <www.newsppers.library.wales/view/3781337/19>: a Sherlockian advertisement for Mackintosh's Toffee, published in 1910 (the toffee still is available in British shops).

Rob Nunn's *The Common-Place Book 2021* (33 pp., $5.99) offers 13 of the essays, stories, and toasts he has written since he attended his first society meeting in 2015, among them "A Study in Steadfast" (with an intriguing look at "A Study in Scarlet" by one of its minor characters).

Life's 96-page special issue offering "the story behind the world's greatest detective" (with Basil Rathbone on the cover), which first appeared in 2016, has been reissued (with very minor differences that will be of interest only to the completist) and is back on newsstands, and available at Amazon and elsewhere.

Game-playing Sherlockians may not be aware that Frogwares, the developer of many computer games (their latest is Sherlock Holmes: Chapter One) is headquartered in Ukraine. The company's CEO Wael Amr is featured in a recent interview spotted at the IGN web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2p8emjn7> by Jennie Paton.

Original (non-Sherlockian) artwork by Sidney Paget is coming to auction in the U.K. on Apr. 6, estimated at £50-£80 <www.tinyurl.com/4ppuyxsc>; it's a watercolor of "a landscape with sailing boats on a lake with mountains beyond and a figure on a path."

9GAG, according to Wikipedia, is a web-site based in Hong Kong that allows users to upload user-generated content. Jennie Paton has noted an amusing "Dead British Actors" video <www.tinyurl.com/ybcf9jy7> that's something of a deep fake: it's really a segment from the British BBC-2 television series "That Mitchell and Webb Look". The skit actually aired on Sept. 21, 2006, and starred David Mitchell and Robert Webb.

*Le fantôme de l'oiseau lune* (Paris: Editions l'Âge d'Or, 2013) is a graphic novel written by Yves Varende and illustrated by René Follet, with cover art that's striking indeed <www.tinyurl.com/2p83ev5h>.

CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) has been used for quite a while now, but it's nice to know that the first CGI character in a film was the dancing knight from a stained-glass window in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); the GeekTyrant web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2p8txfkv> recently made available a fan-created video showing how much improved the technology is now, and the video includes (at 18:45) an homage to the 1985 film.

Mar 22 #8 Theater news: John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the Little Theatre in Hertford, Herts., through Apr. 2 <www.cops.org.uk>.

Susan Lumenello's "The Sherlock Problem" is on at the Cape Cod Theatre in West Harwich, Mass., through Apr. 3 <www.capecodtheatrecompany.org>; it's a new comedy featuring Conan Doyle, Holmes, and Watson.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Runway Theatre in Grapevine, Texas, through Apr. 10 <www.runwaytheatre.com>. It's coming up at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Apr. 1-May 14 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical "Cats" (with Macavity: The Mystery Cat) is on tour in the U.S. through June 26 <www.ustour.catsthemusical.com>.

Richard Lloyd's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sons of Anubis" will be performed at the Coulsdon Community Centre in Coulsdon, Surrey, Apr. 2-9; web-site at <www.twcoulsdon.org.uk>.

Lliam Paterson's new opera 'The Sign of Four" will have a special preview performance (scenes from the opera and a discussion with the audience) at the East Riding Theatre in Beverley, Yorks., on Apr. 9; their web-site at <www.northernoperagroup.co.uk>.

Jeff Ames' "The Hit-or-Miss Adventures of Watson and Holmes" will be performed at the Wallenstien Theater at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake, Wash., Apr. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/mrx6jpzr>.

Jonathan Goodwin will perform his new "Sherlock Holmes: The Poet and His Muse" on-line on Apr. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/htmaapd5>.

Craig Wichman's "The Blue Carbuncle" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company in Cape May, N.J., May 14-15 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" will be performed during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh, on Aug. 3-10 <www.assemblyfestival.com/whats-on/all-shows/watson-the-final-problem>.

Michael Mitnick's "Mysterious Circumstances" (which was inspired by David Grann's 2004 article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green) is scheduled at the Road Less Traveled Theater in Buffalo, N.Y., on Sept. 15-Oct.16 <www.roadlesstraveledproductions.org>.

Gael Stahlhuth's "The Norwood Builder" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company in Cape May, N.J., Oct. 21-22 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty: A New Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will premiere at the Cleveland Playhouse's Allen Theatre in Cleveland, Apr. 29-May 21, 2023 <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>.

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Apr 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Breaking news about the Baker Street Irregulars' conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn, N.Y., on July 29-31: registration will open to the general public on May 17. See the announcement about the conference at <www.tinyurl.com/2py9xsvs>.

"They're creatures of our creation, like Sherlock Holmes is" might not be an expected answer to the question "What is math?" But there is indeed a relationship, according to Dan Falk's interesting article at the Smithsonian magazine web-site (Sept. 23, 2020) <www.tinyurl.com/3d2yu2bj>, noted by John Marlowe.

Are you woke? Are you from Woking? Residents of the city (mentioned in "The Naval Treaty") are reported to be "caught in the glare of a cultural confrontation," according a piece by Stephen Rand in The Article (Apr. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/245pwp46>.

Reported: Hugh Corbett's *Hymn to Murder* (Headline, 2021) is set on Dartmoor in 1312, and according to Ben Witherington at Patheos (Mar. 27), involves wild beasts and a taverner named Baskerville.

Sherlockians are well aware that "A Study in Scarlet" was first appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887; the annual was named for Isabella Beeton, but it was her husband Samuel who published it, capitalizing on the fame of his late wife, who was renowned for her *Book of Household Management*, first published in 1861. Conan Doyle titled a chapter in his *A Duet: With an Occasional Chorus* (1898) "Concerning Mrs. Beeton", and involves his newly-wed couple in an amusing discussion of the book. Lytton Strachey planned to write a biography of Mrs. Beeton, but didn't; Kathryn Hughes' *The Short Life and Long Times of Mrs. Beeton: The First Domestic Goddess* was published in 2006, and she's scheduled to speak at the British Library on May 18 in a panel discussion of "The Culinary Worlds of Eliza Acton and Mrs. Beeton" <www.tinyurl.com/2p8eept4> (the cost is £13.00 live or streamed).

Kathryn Hughes also has written *The Victorian Governess* (1993) and *Victorians Undone: Tales of the Flesh in the Age of Decorum* (2017), and she is now writing a book about the late Victorians' obsession with cats. Andrew Lycett wrote a sprightly review of her *Victorian Undone* for History Today <www.historytoday.com/reviews/stripping-down-buttoned>.

It has been open since at least 2005: there's a Sherlock Holmes English Lounge in the Arabian Courtyard Hotel in Dubai, and now Jennie Paton has reported a visual tour at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN-1jkOXLFE>.

Further to the preview of "A Celebration of Sherlock Holmes" at the DePaul Pop Culture Conference scheduled at DePaul University in Chicago on May 7 (Mar 22 #3), Paul Booth, who developed the conference, was interviewed recently by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/bdsu6jvb>.

Apr 22 #2 John T. Lescroart began his writing career with *Son of Holmes* (1986) and *Rasputin's Revenge* (1987). They're about Auguste Lupa, and are more Neronian than Sherlockian. If you would like to know more about his long and successful career since then, there's an interesting interview with him published in the March-April issue of Sactown Magazine <www.sactownmag.com/life-of-crime-john-lescroart>.

Something new: cli-fi (fiction literature that deals with the effects of climate change on human society). A brief Sherlockian cli-fi was one of the winners in a recent competition set by the British magazine The Spectator <www.tinyurl.com/f8vfuxss>.

Jennie Paton spotted an unusual (to say the least) Sherlock in Brazil; you can see him at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=29Q07qN-cKM>.

Lyndon N. Smith's *Star Trek Nation* (Sedgemoor, 2021; 179 pp., $32.95) offers "an Englishman's view of America." It's very much a memoir, written by someone who believes that the "Star Trek" television series has much to say about America, and its relationship with Britain, and that the Sherlock Holmes stories can be just as helpful to Americans who want to understand Britain. Smith's explanation of it all is nicely entertaining.

The Atlantic Coast Theatre for Youth will be touring their new "Sherlock Holmes & the Opera Mystery" on tour from Sept. 2022 to Aug. 2024; it's for grades K-8, and their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3dry4s75> has a five-minute video preview.

The Royal Mail has issued a set of stamps showing migratory birds, one of them a Stone-curlew, described as "an odd-looking 'goggle-eyed plover'" (curlews are mentioned in two stories: "The Priory School" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles").

June Brown died on Apr. 3. She began acting on stage with the Old Vic in 1948, and was best known as Dot Cotton in the "Eastenders" television series, in which she appeared for more than 30 years. According to her obituary in the Guardian, she never cared about propriety, claiming that when she appeared in "Calendar Girls" in the West End at the age of 82, she was the only one in the cast who stripped completely naked for the photo call. She also played Anne Chapman in "Murder by Decree" (1979).

Are you woke? Are you from Woking? Be skeptical about anything published on Apr. 1.

Forecast: Sarah Penner's THE LONDON SÉANCE CLUB, due in 2023, is, according to The Bookseller (Apr. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/5cmzd6eh>, set in 1872 London and is "inspired by a real gentlemen's-only séance club founded by Charles Dickens and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." That would be the Ghost Club, which was founded in 1862 and is still going strong, but while Dickens and Conan Doyle were members, they weren't among its founders. Nor were they even members at the same time: Dickens died in 1870, when Conan Doyle was only eleven years old.

Apr 22 #3 It's reasonably official, since it was reported by both Variety and the Hollywood Reporter (Apr. 5): Warner Bros. hopes to expand its "Sherlock Holmes" film universe into television, and is working with HBO Max to develop two new series, with Robert Downey Jr. on board as executive producer. The new series likely would be a substitute for the long-delayed third RDJ film, which was originally scheduled for release in December 2020, but is not yet in production.

The largest autograph album ever compiled by a single collector, with signatures of more than 60,000 notables <www.tinyurl.com/2p9dmwke>, is up for sale for $250,000. The history of the collection is fascinating indeed, even though (according to the dealer) Conan Doyle is not in the album.

She wasn't a Sherlockian, but Lillian Virginia Mountweazel, well known to some (but not all) of those are interested in copyright, is worthy of attention; you can read about her at <www.tinyurl.com/cemjfumk>. Lady Mondegreen is better known to people interested in strange but useful words; you can read about her at <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mondegreen>.

*Old Marvel, the Scientific Detective* (Dark Lantern Tales, 2021; 229 pp., $19.95) is an intriguing reprint of a serial, discovered by Joe Rainone, that appeared in Saturday Night (a weekly "story paper" published in Philadelphia) in 1884, three years before Conan Doyle's scientific detective. The book also has a reprint of "A Study in Scarlet" as serialized in The Illustrated Home Guest in 1894, and an introduction by Rainone detailing the coincidences between the two stories. It's all nicely edited by Mark Williams, who presides over Dark Lantern <www.darklantern.wordpress.com>.

Glen and Cathy Miranker were interviewed in a CBS Sunday News segment on Apr. 10 on the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" exhibition at the Grolier Club <www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-555u43x68>.

"Mystery novels offer a more nuanced perspective in which perfumes are one intriguing tool in the box of dark communication strategies," Megan Volpert suggests in her new book *Perfume (Object Lessons)* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2022). Sherlock Holmes is among the detectives she discusses, and you can read what she has to say about him in an excerpt from the book at the Literary Hub web-site (Apr. 8) <www.tinyurl.com/2ez7jnn3>

There have been many mentions of Cameron Hollyer in this newsletter over the years, and the annual Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture in Toronto is named in his honor; if you would like to know more about him, and his many contributions to the Sherlockian world, Chris Redmond's fine tribute will be found at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/2p837awa>.

Further to the report (Oct 21 #8) on C. T. Scott's article about "The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes's Real-Life Secretary" in the Economist's 1843 Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/96baau4d> about Chris Bazlinton, who at the age of 27 signed on as Holmes' secretary at Abbey National: Aurra Studios has announced that "Sherlock Holmes's Secret Secretary" now is in development for television <www.tinyurl.com/4afm96ts>. Needless to say, a secret secretary makes for a better television title than real-life secretary.

Apr 22 #4 Richard Hughes, mentioned often in this newsletter, was noted for having had characters modeled after him in books written by Ian Fleming and John Le Carré. Hughes' copy of Ian Fleming's *You Only Live Twice*, inscribed by "To Dikko-san from Fleming-san. With all affection." was offered in an on-line auction at Christie's this month, estimated at $35,000-$50,000 <www.tinyurl.com/zr9hncjj>; it didn't sell.

Just the thing for dinosaur fans: original artwork by Harry Rountree for "The Lost World" (ink wash and gouache on board) was sold at Heritage Auctions this month for $8,125 (including the buyer's premium); at auction in 2017 it sold for $5,500. It's fascinating to see just how much better the original artwork is than what readers of the story in the Strand Magazine saw <www.tinyurl.com/34w97sv6>.

This year's Virtual Jack Benny convention included "Jack Benny Meets Sherlock Holmes" (written by Brad Strickland and performed by the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company); you can watch (and listen to) the 23-minute show at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtQ1SbgUwKo>. The ARTC <www.artc.org>, founded in 1984, offers an interesting catalog of "adventure in sound," including "Sherlock Holmes and the Crime of the Century".

The (real) "Jack Benny Show" had quite a few Sherlockian segments, including "Sherlock Holmes and King Kong" in the program that aired on May 26, 1933, starring Jack as Sherlock Holmes; Jennie Paton found it on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJyZGVHgGU8>.

The February issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' report on this newsletter (since there's a compete run in the collection), her "50 Years Ago" tribute to Hank Potter, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Timothy Johnson, 15-G Elmer L. Anderson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <johns976@umn.com>.

Ronald Levisky discusses "A Holmesian Homage—The Chronicles of Addington Peace" and Jerry Margolin explains how "The Slavering Hound Is Brought to Heel" in the spring 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 $12.00 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

The Knockhatch Adventure Park in Hailsham (Sussex) has a Sherlock Holmes Experience <www.tinyurl.com/yurfjxya>; Richard Doyle (grand-nephew of Sir Arthur) presided over the opening this month. There's also a trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIRbDfrYUS4. The Parks also offers a Lost World Playbarn <www.tinyurl.com/yrhk8898>.

Nev March's *Peril at the Exposition* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2022, 352 pp., $27.99), the sequel to her award-winning *Murder in Old Bombay* (2020), has Captain Jim Agnihotri, now married to Diana Framji, in Chicago in 1893 investigating a threat to the Columbian Exposition; Jim has disappeared, and Diana must find him, in a story that's a thriller with some Sherlockian sleuthing involved.

Apr 22 #5 Further to the items (Sep 14 #7 and Dec 14 #5 and May 16 #6) about a new Sherlock Holmes play, written by Rachel Wagsaff and Duncan Abel, and produced by Antonio R. Marion, forecast for Broadway in 2017, Deadlne has reported (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/yjescyzh> that the play is (still) under development, "with an eye toward the West End and Broadway." Stay tuned.

Lykkelig Påskekrim! Turns out that Norwegians have an interesting way of celebrating Easter <www.lifeinnorway.net/easter-crime>.

If you didn't buy a bottle of Macallan's Archival Series of fine whiskies honoring the "luggy bonnet" for £250 two years ago (May 20 #2), you should have: one bottle was at auction at Sotheby's in Hong Kong this month, estimated at 8,000-12,000 HKD <www.tinyurl.com/bkb6cjfz>; it sold for 22,500 HKD (that's $2,868), with shipping extra.

Who was the first Sherlockian scholar? Not, as it turns out, Helen Elizabeth Wilson, whose article "The Life of Sherlock Holmes" was published in the Oct. 1898 issue of the Cornell Magazine (Feb 22 #2). The spring issue of The Baker Street Journal reprints William Aspenwall Bradley's "Sherlock Holmes and His Literary Prototype" (first published in the Dec. 1896 issue of the Columbia Literary Monthly), accompanied by an article about Bradley by Daniel L. and Eugene B. Friedman, who discovered the 1896 scholarship. You can subscribe to the BSJ <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> and receive the spring issue as part of this year's subscription.

Why does Sherlock Holmes like Mexican restaurants? Jennie Paton found the answer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/shorts/11TgXNw8Ntc>.

More than 300 people attended the 221B Con in Atlanta on Apr. 8-10, and a good time seems to have been had by all. There were many panels, and you can see their list at <www.221bcon.com/panels>. The most detailed report from a Sherlockian about what went on is by Brad Keefauver; check his blog archive for April at <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com>. You can also hear a 37-minute audio report <www.tinyurl.com/2p932jyn> at the Watsonian Weekly web-site.

Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch continues; his latest interviews have been with Mark Jones and Ira Matetsky <www.tinyurl.com/mr45zbhu>.

In case you've never seen one: a very nice copy of the 1925 A. L. Burt Co. photoplay reprint edition of *The Lost World*, with dust-jacket art from the film <www.tinyurl.com/5fmutuax>, sold at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 10 for $660 (including the buyer's premium).

For those who are aware that William Gillette smoked a curved wooden pipe, rather than a calabash, when he performed as "Sherlock Holmes" (no one has ever come up with a photograph or contemporary artwork that shows him with a calabash): a "Sherlock Holmes limited edition calabash rusticated estate smoking pipe" (presumably a briar) <www.tinyurl.com/5d7x3w27> was at auction this month, estimated at $50-$150; it sold for $150.

Apr 22 #6 Mark F. McPherson's *An Irregular Life: Being the Adventures and Memoirs of a Fortunate Sherlockian* (London: MX Publishing, 2022; 539 pp., $39.99) is the second (and greatly expanded) edition of his memoirs, and it's a great read, offering a chance to share his travels and quests (for Camelot, Atlantis, Jack the Ripper, James Bond, Emma Peel, and the Loch Ness Monster, among others); his meetings with interesting Sherlockians (including his mentor Bill Rabe) and non-Sherlockians; as well as his appearances in his own one-man show "An Evening with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle". Memoirs, of course, are much more fun than autobiographies.

"Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" at the Grolier Club in New York opened on Jan. 12 and closed on Apr. 16, and had 5,500 visits, more than any other exhibition in at least the last ten years, and would have had more if attendance had not been restricted during the pandemic. The exhibition next will be at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., Aug 1-Dec. 15; details will be found at Glen's web-site at <www.sherlockin221objects.org>.

The Generic Radio Workshop <www.genericradio.com> offers free downloads of a wide variety of old-time radio scripts, including ten from the Rathbone, Conway, and Gielgud series <www.genericradio.com/series/sherlockholmes>, and the Mercury Theater broadcast of Orson Welles' version of the Gillette play <www.genericradio.com/show/8VCGXSKAOS>.

"Experience the mystery in VR" seems to be something new in the Sherlockian world. Les Enfants Terribles have created "The Case of the Hung Parliament" as a "live immersive production" that was adapted for an on-line audience on Zoom <www.vrisch.com/projects/sherlock-holmes-vr>. There's additional information at <www.sherlockholmesvr.com>, and even more about it at <www.sherlockimmersive.com>. The review in the Evening Standard (Feb. 25, 2021) was far from enthusiastic <www.tinyurl.com/4p24znp6>.

For fans of "The Lost World": the National Geographic's one-hour program "Explorer: The Last Tepui" began streaming on Disney+ on Apr. 22; you can watch the trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/y8sc37jr>. It's the story of an expedition to Wei-Assipu, also known as Little Roraima or Roramita (many believe that near-by Roraima was the inspiration for Conan Doyle's story).

Walt and Roger Reed's *The Illustrator in America 1880-1980: A Century of Illustration* (New York: Society of Illustrators, 1984) offers a detailed and well-illustrated discussion of American artists. The entry for Joseph Clement Coll ("perhaps America's greatest virtuoso in the use of pen and ink") includes artwork for "Sir Nigel" and "The Lost World", and the entry for Frederic Door Steele ("best remembered for is portray of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes") shows a cover from Collier's.

"A wise man once said, if you've eliminated the possible and the probable, then the impossible must be true! Sherlock Holmes, I think: 1899." According to Peter Parker (aka Spider-man), in the May 1973 issue of Marvel Team-Up, noted by Paul Thomas Miller in the April issue of the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild's newsletter Timeline, conveniently available by e-mail from Brad Keefauver <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.

Apr 22 #7 Rathbone and Bruce in 1959? They both signed a contract with NBC-TV on July 23, 1959, giving permission to use a photograph of them in a "reunion plug" <www.tinyurl.com/2kx4szmd>; the contract was at auction on Apr. 27, estimated at $1,500-$2,500; the photograph was not included, and there was no information on what the program was, or whether it aired. The lot was withdrawn, and for a good reason: Nigel Bruce died in 1953.

Terry Hunt's presentation at the Bryant Library in Roslyn, N.Y., on May 12 about Christopher Morley's connections with Sherlock Holmes will be available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/5xhw3xxe>; Morley's "Knothole" is preserved in Roslyn, where he lived and wrote for many years.

Terry also has created a new Sherlockian society, the League of Kilted Canonicals, for Sherlockians who wear kilts; more information is available from him at <sherlockstuff113@gmail.com>.

Theater news: Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the 1st Baker Street Irregular" will be performed at the James McCabe Theatre in Valrico, Fla., May 6-21 <www.thevillageplayersvalrico.com>.

Allan Martin's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Basketballs" (a puppet show billed as "appropriate for mature audiences, not children") will be performed at the Old Town Hall in Altamonte, Ont., May 12-15; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/4hhzyes4>.

John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Keighley Playhouse in Keighley, West Yorks., on May 2-7 <www.keighleyplyhouse.co.uk>; also at the Daneside Theatre in Congleton, Cheshire, from June 14 to June 18 <www.congletonplayers.com>.

The Lantern Light Theatre Company will perform "Miss Sherlock Holmes" (a triple bill of one-act plays) on tour in Britain in June and July; their schedule is at <www.tinyurl.com/yc23w4kw>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., July 12-Aug.21 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

A new adaptation of "The Poison Belt" is due at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London, July 21-30 <www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Great Plains Theatre in Abilene, Kans., Sept. 9-25 <www.greatplainstheatre.com>.

"Spontaneous Sherlock" will be performed at the Glee Club in Nottingham on Oct. 24 <www.thespontaneousplayers.com>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and Case of the Jersey Lily" is due at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Apr. 14-May 7, 2023 <www.alleytheatre.org>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

May 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Baker Street Irregulars Trust and the Lilly Library are now accepting applications for research fellowships for 2023. The fellowships "support research on various aspects of Sherlockian studies that require consultation of the BSI Archive." The applications deadline is Sept. 15, and more information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/yw8nttvd>.

This year's BSI Trust annual webinar lecture will be given by Ray Betzner on Sept. 17 on "'221B': The Story of a Sherlockian Sonnet"; Ray is a fervent admirer of, and an expert on, the sonnet's author, Vincent Starrett <www.tinyurl.com/59krarua>. Ray's blog about Starrett has great stories about him and his books, and the latest story, about an unusual copy of one Starrett's non-Sherlockian books, is at <www.tinyurl.com/57bn88b2>.

More news about the Baker Street Irregulars' conference ("Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire") scheduled at the Bear Mountain Inn, N.Y., on July 29-31: there will be a huckster's room, with limited space for tables, and anyone interested should contact Ralph Hall <bugmanhall@aol.com>. The announcement for the conference is at <www.tinyurl.com/56zskuus>.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, maintained by Alexis Barquin, is well worth exploring; one of the many features he offers is digital text of all of Conan Doyle's fiction <www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/search-fictions> (213 short stories, 24 novels, and 16 plays), with a search engine.

"Sherlock the Musical" (written by Stefan van de Graaff and Denning Burton) has been performed and recorded, and can now be seen (without charge) at their web-site <www.sherlockmusical.com>.

As the era of virtual meetings by Sherlockian societies eases to an end, Jennie Paton would like to capture for posterity an archive of recordings, and would appreciate hearing from societies who would like to have their meetings preserved <jpaton221@gmail.com>.

The 2020 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was given at the Toronto Public Library by Rebecca Romney ("Sherlockian Collecting: A Tour of Clever, Creative, and Weird Pursuits") and her 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 (789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada). A minimum donation of $35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2021 Memorial Lecture. Rebecca has some grand stories about collectors and collections.

The spring issue of the Friends' newsletter The Magic Door offers Hartley R. Nathan's article on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the C.P.R. Securities", an account by Jessie Amaolo of the Library's exhibition "A Study in Sherlock & His Creator", and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb (address above) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

May 22 #2 *The Bangalore Detectives Club*, by Harini Nagendra (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2022), is set in southern India in 1921, when Kaveri Murthy, a young doctor's wife, turns detective; she's an admirer of Sherlock Holmes, and the novel, while not really Sherlockian, is full of flavor in a story about Indians, rather than the British, at a time when Mahatma Gandhi was just beginning his campaign against colonial rule.

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

Serena Blasco's *Enola Holmes: The Graphic Novels: Book One* (Kansas City: Andrews McMeel, 2022; 192 pp., $14.99) is a reprint of her imaginative and colorful adaptations of the first three of Nancy Springer's novels about the younger sister of Sherlock and Mycroft, nicely timed for the soon-to-be-released second season of the Netflix series. There was a well-illustrated interview with the artist at the School Library Journal web-site in 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/yyvw46ql>.

Bart Lovins' dramatizations of "The Novel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the four long stories) for performance at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., are imaginatively staged, and available streamed on-line ($5.00 each) at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8e4rbp>.

The late Marvin Kaye edited the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine since it was launched in 2008, and its new editor is Carla Kaessinger Coupe, whose first issue offers the traditional interesting mix of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian fiction and commentary. $12.00 ($39.99 for four issues) from the Wildside Press <www.wildsidepress.com> (7945 MacArthur Boulevard #215, Bethesda, MD 20818), and you can explore their web-site for more of their Sherlockiana.

When in Tyler (Texas): the Rosevine Inn Bed & Breakfast is place to stay for visiting Sherlockians <www.tinyurl.com/yc2n63v8>.

The Reichenbach Irregulars, having celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Reichenplaque (the commemorative plaque that was unveiled at the Falls on May 2, 1992), are hard at work planning for their next conference ("Musings on the Amusements in the Canon") which will be held in Leukerbad on June 1-4, 2023. More information about the conference (and the society) will be found at their web-site <www.221b.ch>.

Reported: "Sherlock Holmes: The Peter Cushing Interview" on a new DVD from Kaleidoscope Facilities (£24.99) <www.tinyurl.com/4hkxrn5v>.

"Evaline and Mina didn't mean to get into the family business" is the hook for Colleen Gleason's *The Clockwork Scarab* (2013), the first of five books in her series about Evaline Holmes (the niece of Sherlock) and Mina Stoker (the sister of Bram), and their adventures in a steampunk Victorian London. There's a free download of the book at <www.cgbks.com/Scarab>, and more about the series at <www.colleengleason.com>.

May 22 #3 Edinburgh policeman James McLevy's *Curiosities of Crime in Edinburgh* and *The Sliding Scale of Life* were published in 1861, and although there's no record of Arthur Conan Doyle ever having read the books, it's intriguing to think of him encountering and enjoying them during his student days in Edinburgh; first editions of both books are available from Type Punch Matrix <www.typepunchmatrix.com> ($3,000).

Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch continues; his latest interviews have been with Tamar Zeffren <www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6L8ojyA4sU> and Marsha Pollak <www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uIY6IntrLw>.

Rachelle Zylberberg died on May 1. Better known as Régine, she founded a basement nightclub in Paris in 1957 (later claiming that it was the first discothèque) and went on to create a $500-million world-wide empire of 23 clubs. She also was an actress and a singer, and led a thoroughly colorful life, and you can hear her sing "I Never Do Anything Twice" (written by Stephen Sondheim) as the Madame in the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976). You can listen to the song at <www.tinyurl.com/23etp5vp>, and to an interesting podcast discussion of the song (noted by Max Magee) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbOl8U1kNVc>.

Howard Ostrom has reported an interesting one-hour video-biography of Benedict Cumberbatch at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=tydks9RpJ2k>.

Patrick Horgan's *The Detection of Sherlock Holmes* is a "slightly fantastic autobiographic tale" written by an actor who played Sherlock Holmes often, and William Gillette once, in the world premiere of Ken Ludwig's "Dramatic License" (which is still performed as "Postmortem"). Never published as a book, it's available as an audio-book, recorded in 1998 by Horgan himself, from Decklin's Domain <www.decklinsdomain.com> ($5.00 as a download, $9.95 on CD or $12.45 on a thumb drive); it's imaginative, and nicely done, and recommended. Decklin also offers nine downloads of Horgan reading the entire Canon, three more of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories, and many stories by other authors; you can sample them, and discover just how wonderful Horgan was.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Children of London" is a new musical graphic novel produced by the Baskerville Files <www.thebaskervilefiles.com>; you can listen to their music at their web-site and at <www.tinyurl.com/yh723y3w>.

The Internet Archive Software Collection, said to be "the largest vintage and historical software library in the world, providing instant access to millions of programs, CD-ROM images, documents, and multi-media," has much to offer <www.archive.org/details/software?sin=TXT>. If you run a search for [sherlock holmes] you get 182 hits for metadata, and 103 hits for text contents. There's much of interest to Sherlockian gamers.

Max Magee notes that the Internet Archive also offers a treasure trove of Sherlockian radio broadcasts, including 74 BBC programs that were written by Bert Coules, with Clive Merrison as Sherlock Holmes; you can listen to them all at <www.tinyurl.com/3b4k8d9j>. You can also search for [sherlock holmes audio] and find enough keep you happy for hours on end.

May 22 #4 "Sherlock Holmes in Comics" is a new "guide to Sherlock Holmes in comic books, graphic novels, and manga" created by Johanna Draper Carlson, who was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/3pvdwdv9>, where you'll find much more, including the tale of "the gorgeous typeface that drove men mad and sparked a 100-year mystery." You can explore Johanna's colorful database at <www.comicsworthreading.com/sherlock-holmes-in-comics>.

Forrest T. Athey ("The Hammerford Will Case") died on Apr. 2. He worked in finance, accounting, and corporate taxation, was the author of a pastiche published in the Baker Street Journal in 1969, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1978.

Howard Ostrom launched his "Who's on First, It's Not So Elementary: First Sherlocks by Country" data-base with 50 counties, and he now has 97 countries; you can see the latest 186-page, fully illustrated, version at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mr25sxbm>. There also is a Google Drive version at <www.tinyurl.com/2p89xxew>.

Roger Johnson has kindly noted a documentary about Craig's Court in London <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gwjMWfXd3g>; it's described as "London's forgotten square," and has a Sherlockian connection (if you're impatient, just skip ahead to 8:05).

Reichenbachite is a hydrous copper phosphate, a polymorph of pseudomalachite, first reported in 1977, named for the locality where it was found, and the name was formally approved by the International Mineralogical Association in 1984. Unfortunately for Sherlockians, the locality is a different Reichenbach, near Frankfurt am Main (Germany). Reichenbachite has been found elsewhere: this nice specimen, from the Congo, was spotted at a rock and mineral show by Michael Pollak.

Terry Hunt gave a PowerPoint presentation at the Bryant Library in Roslyn on May 12 about "Christopher Morley's Influence on the Sherlockian World" (and he'll be happy to do it via Zoom for Sherlockian societies); you can contact him at <18goldini95@gmail.com>.

The Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth, with funding from the Arts Council England, presented a series of on-line lectures this month, in honor of the late Neil McCaw, with talks by Michael Comben (on "Conan Doyle as A. C. Smith: Football and Portsmouth"), Antonija Primorac (on "In Search of Sherlock Holmes's Doubles: Translation and Early Pastiches"), and Anne Chapman (on "Arthur Conan Doyle in the Idler Magazine"); the lectures may be available on-line (stay tuned). Information about the Collection's ongoing project "The Detectives" is conveniently available at their web-site <www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conan-doyle/our-work>.

The De Beers Cullinan Blue diamond (Mar 22 #5) was sold at auction in Hong Kong on Apr. 27 for $57.5 million (including the buyer's premium). Weighing 15.10 carats, it's the largest blue diamond ever sold at auction (the Hope Diamond, never at auction, weighs 45.52 carats).

May 22 #5 The ACD Society has launched a new project: an annotated version of the manuscript of "The Terror of Blue John Gap"; it's an on-going project, edited by Margie Deck and Nancy Holder, with commentary by Paul Chapman, Derek Belanger, Mattias Bőstrom, Charles Prepolec, and Bob Coghill, with more to come <www.acdsociety.com/bjg/a/bjga.html>. You can also go to <www.acdsociety.com> for more information about the society's other activities.

Here's your chance to own a Stradivarius (although you'll need to pay much more than Sherlock Holmes did for his): the Smithsonian magazine web-site reported (May 9) <www.tinyurl.com/mtzyje9e> that the Tarisio auction house will offer one on June 9, estimated at about $20 million (which would make it the world's most expensive violin).

It was the Les and Laurie Show at the Mystery Writers of America's awards dinner in New York on Apr. 28: Les Klinger presented Laurie R. King with the MWA's prestigious Grand Master Award, and you can watch the presentation at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KvddnMlFT0>.

Ingenuity, the little helicopter that has been flying nicely on Mars since 2021, when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's rover Perseverance landed, is nearing the end of its useful life, according to an article in the Washington Post (May 15) <www.tinyurl.com/2m6kevne>. SHERLOC and WATSON <ww.tinyurl.com/mswem6ev>, however, are still at work.

Jim Hawkins is hoping to identify the first Sherlockian society lapel pin. Ron De Waal has Hugo's Companions' "221B Lapel Pin" (1966), and the Scowrers and Molly Maguires' "Membership Lapel Pin" (1971). Does anyone know of other candidates? Contact Jim at <seniorhawk@gmail.com>.

"Hitler the ranting detective" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrUiKl4LDbs> is a new video spotted by Jennie Paton. See for yourself: "Hitler proves how easy Sherlock Holmes' mysteries are by solving them!"

The Florida Bibliophile Society held an on-line meeting on Apr. 19, with Ray Betzner as guest speaker; his topic was "Vincent Starrett and Sherlock Holmes" and you can tune in at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNM8DAGyClA>. Ray notes that his presentation starts at 9:30.

Douglas Wadle's *Einstein's Violin: The Love Affair Between Science, Music, and History's Most Creative Thinkers* (Bloomington: Archway, 2022; 215 pp., $33.95) is aptly subtitled: the author does a deep dive into the relationship between music and genius, acknowledging how important music has been to Albert Einstein, Sherlock Holmes, and many others who "relied on music to access the innate creativity of the brain."

Overton Audios has produced two interesting albums of Sherlock Holmes pastiches "The Game Is On" and "Family Values" (with Connor Chadwick as Sherlock Holmes and Daniel J. Patton as Doctor John Watson), available free at their YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/3sfak72h> (scroll down to find the Sherlock Holmes audios).

May 22 #6 Conan Doyle wrote (in his Preface to *His Last Bow*) that Sherlock Holmes "lived in a small farm upon the Downs five miles from Eastbourne." But we don't know whether he ever stayed at the Grand Hotel in Eastbourne, which opened in 1875 and is the only five-star hotel on the British coastline, according to an article at the Sussex Life website <www.tinyurl.com/2xne2dnj>. The article also says that the Grand was "beloved by illustrious guests such as Winston Churchill and author Arthur Conan Doyle," and the hotel web-site <www.grandeastbourne.com/our-history> does mention him (and shows just how grand a hotel it is).

Steve Mason has created an imaginative and colorful Sherlockian Periodical Table, available on request <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.

Ray Wilcockson continues to make interesting discoveries in the pages of digitized newspapers, and reports on them in his "Markings" blog, such as "Sherlock Holmes and the Crippen Musical" <www.tinyurl.com/2p9stkk8>

William Shatner celebrated Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday in song on May 22 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=jundQrVHXyY>.

D. H. Friston is well known to Sherlockians as the illustrator of "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887; you can see his cover illustration for the Jan. 28, 1882, issue of The Penny Illustrated Paper at <www.tinyurl.com/348zc8hj>.

Theater news: Richard James' "The Death of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Conquest Theatre in Bromyard, Herts., on June 17; website at <www.conquest-theatre.co.uk>.

"Sherlock Holmes Not According to Doyle" (four radio plays dramatized by Catherine Behrens) will be performed by the Edge Ensemble Theatre Company at the Keene Public Library in Keene, N.H.; Mark Twain's "Sherlock Holmes Goes West" and August Derleth's "The Adventure of the Late Mr. Faversham" on July 21 and July 23; and Derrick Belanger's "Yes, Virginia, There Is a Sherlock Holmes" and Vincent Starrett's "The Unique Hamlet" on July 22 and July 24. Free admission, and all part of "Sherlock Week" sponsored by the Monadnock Sherlockians (the local Sherlockian society).

"Holmes/Poirot" (a new play by Jeffrey Hatcher and Steve Hendrickson) will be performed at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., July 19-Aug. 20, 2023; it's based on Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Links" and brings "two of the greatest detectives of all time" on stage to solve a crime.

The Crime and Comedy Theatre Company will perform Martin Parsons' radio-play dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on tour in Britain, Oct. 28-Nov. 20 <www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk/dates>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" has been scheduled at the Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, Md., Dec, 6-Jan. 1 <www.everymantheatre.org>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Jun 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which is at the Frost Science Center in Miami, Fla., through Sept. 5 <www.frostscience.org/exhibition/sherlock-holmes>. It will next be at the Minnesota History Center in St Paul, Minn., from Oct. 20 through Apr. 6 <www.mnhs.org/historycenter>. Created by the Exhibits Development Group, the exhibition has an impressive web-site <wwwtinyurl.com/4sv5jdj3> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might consider putting it on display.

*Sherlock Holmes and the Strange Death of Brigadier-General Delves*, by Tim Symonds (London: MX Publishing, 2022; 168 pp., $12.95), brings Holmes and Watson to the Bailiwick of Guernsey to rescue a war-time comrade of Watson from conviction on a charge of murder; there is much about Guernsey (where the author grew up), and the ill-fated British campaign in Afghanistan.

A nice copy of Vincent Starrett's *The Unique Hamlet* (a Walter L. Hill variant) was at auction in Canada last month <www.tinyurl.com/yp7ak8s6>, estimated at CA$1,500-CA$3,000; it didn't sell.

Kay Wheeler had a nice remembrance of Basil Rathbone in the Portland Press Herald (May 26) <www.tinyurl.com/45kdr69z>.

Wanda Dow, formerly in Florida and now in New Mexico, has launched a colorful newsletter ("Papers on the Sundial"); it's available on request via e-mail from Wanda at <hal0tot@verizon.net>.

*Playing with Fire: The Weird Tales of Arthur Conan Doyle*, edited and introduced by Mike Ashley (London: British Library, 2021; 286 pp. £11.31), is an excellent addition to the British Library Hardback Classics series; in his Introduction, Ashley discusses Conan Doyle's fascination with the strange and supernatural, and the collection opens with a reprint of his autobiographical essay "Stranger Than Fiction" (first published in 1915) and continues with a fine selection of his non-Sherlockian stories.

Richard L. Kellogg's *Barry Baskerville's Fishing Adventure* (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2022; 40 pp., $11.99), with attractive artwork by Gary Kato, is the eighth in his young-readers series about a boy detective.

Users of the Internet who aren't aware of Cunningham's Law might well be interested in how it works <www.tinyurl.com/3sh3f8r5>. Or doesn't.

Baker Street West (in Jackson, Calif.) has emerged from the pandemic with a wide range of dramatic and other events, and their web-site's well worth exploring <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

Stephen Browning's *On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword History, 2022; 141 pp., $34.95) offers seven guided walks through London, for both armchair and on-the-ground Sherlockians, plus information about areas outside London and about Conan Doyle; it's up-to-date, and interesting, with commentary about what's seen on the walks.

Jun 22 #2 Sherlock Holmes with googly eyes <www.tinyurl.com/2u8a8euh> is something new for the Great Detective. Slate's web-site used the image with their story about the new movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once" (Howard Ostrom notes that the web-site has enhanced a stock image showing "a mature man dressed as Sherlock Holmes").

Thomas Bruce Wheeler's *The Mapped London of Sherlock Holmes* (2018) links to an interactive "Map of Sherlock Holmes' London" available free on-line <www.sherlockslondon.com>; it's a splendid demonstration of the application of modern technology to the London of the Canon. It's handy indeed for people who are walking in Canonical London, and Tom has reported that since his book was published an average of 266 people a day have visited the web-site.

Disney's Twentieth Century Studios is at work on a new film of "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen", according to the Hollywood Reporter (May 17) <www.tinyurl.com/yxwdunrf>. The comic-book series, launched in 1999, included Holmes and Watson as characters, and had the League organized by an off-stage Mycroft, and the first film (2003), had Richard Roxburgh as Moriarty. The new film is to be aired on Hulu.

The Royal Mint does much more than merely issue British coins: they also offer souvenirs, and rare coins such as a set of 1887 gold sovereigns honoring Queen Victoria's golden jubilee (£6,430) <www.tinyurl.com/3xkmrzm8>.

The "John Bennett Shaw" web-site <www.johnbennettshaw.com> maintained by Jim Hawkins continues to expand: a text search for [here's a video] will take you to a report on his recent visit with Saul Cohen, who was a founding member of the Brothers Three of Moriarty.

"The Case of the Hung Parliament" (a "live immersive production" created by Les Enfants Terribles) (Apr 22 #6) is now being performed on-line by the Shanghai Grand Theater, according to a report in China Daily (June 24) <www.tinyurl.com/pjme6zhc>.

Reported: Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian "Playing with Fire" is included in Brendan Connell's anthology *The Zinzolin Book of Occult Fiction* (Snuggly Books, 2022; 334 pp., $22.00).

A bloodhound named Trumpet won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show this month, which might not seem Sherlockian. But the report on "Today" on NBC-TV on June 23 <tinyurl.com/ms4jmjs3> included an appropriate and amusing clip from the Fred Willard movie "Best in Show" (2000)

Ray Wilcockson enjoys research in digitized newspapers, and has discovered that Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes were in Dublin in 1897, and again in 1899 <www.altamarkings.blogspot.com/2020>. A nice opportunity for pasticheurs.

"How to Catch a Cheater Using Math" is the title of a video noted by Jennie Paton <www.tinyurl.com/3955ujmk> that has a Sherlockian blob explaining frequency hypothesis testing (Dana Richards, who's an expert at this sort of thing, says it's a remarkably clear explanation).

Jun 22 #3 The single page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" went unsold at Heritage Auctions on June 4 when the reserve wasn't met. It was available for purchase for $125,000 for a few days from Heritage Auctions, but is no longer offered. The web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/4yfk6rj6>. A different single page from the manuscript sold last year for $423,000 (including the buyer's premium) (Nov 21 #5). Obviously the underbidder in that auction wasn't interested in the page offered this year.

"Why would someone wake up and claim they're Napoleon? The answer: something of a fixed idea." Which of course reminds one of the ideé fixe mentioned in "The Six Napoleons". Victoria Shepherd will be lecturing about "A History of Delusions" on-line for National Archives on July 13, and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/963yw93n>. There's also Laure Murat's book *The Man Who Thought He Was Napoleon: Toward a Political History of Madness* (2014), for those who might want to pursue this particular delusion. And Daniel Freeman's BBC Radio 4 lecture on "Napoleon and 'Delusions of Grandeur'" is at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0007lh6>

"Musings on Amusements in the Canon" is the title of the next conference scheduled by the Reichenbach Irregulars in Leukerbad, Switzerland, on June 1-4, 2023 <www.221b.ch/Events_e.html> and visitors from far and near are welcome to attend (and have in the past, reporting having a grand time).

Richard Gordon played Sherlock Holmes (with Leigh Lovell as Watson) on radio in 1930-1933) and in the film "The Radio Murder Mystery" (1933), and (with Harry West as Watson) on radio in 1936. Now Ray Wilcockson has discovered that Gordon also played Holmes on stage; you can read all about it in Ray's "Markings" blog <www.tinyurl.com/t4a6x8sc>.

Cole Porter's classic musical "Anything Goes" (1934) has a rather tenuous Sherlockian connection, and a production at the Barbican in London in 2021 was filmed. You can watch it on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ycktz6sj>; it's all great fun, and the Sherlockian scene starts at 65 minutes.

An article in the Indian Express (June 6) <www.tinyurl.com/yahcd6m2> includes an image of the Sappers War Memorial in Bengaluru, and there is a Canonical connection: the 1st Bangalore Pioneers (mentioned in "The Empty House") are thought to have been the 1st Madras Pioneers, a regiment that was raised by the British in 1780; it was disbanded in 1933 and absorbed into the Madras Sappers.

"Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes are tracking a criminal mastermind in the present-day United States. Watson lists out the states the mastermind has visited in alphabetical order. They are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. Watson stares at the list, but he can't make out any sort of pattern. But Holmes' eyes light up. 'Why, it's elementary, my dear Watson!'" That's a problem posed by Eric Snyder at the Riddler Express at Zach Wissner-Gross' "FiveThirtyEight" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ybthfnar>. So: what's the pattern?

Jun 22 #4 Philip Purser-Hallard's *Sherlock Holmes: Masters of Lies* (New York: Titan, 2022; 257 pp., $15.95) is a complicated and entertaining pastiche, set in London in 1898, that pits Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Stanley Hopkins against a clever mastermind who is skilled at forgery, impersonation, and murder.

Further to the report (Apr 22 #4) on the Sherlock Holmes Experience at the Knockhatch Adventure Park in Sussex, there's now a walk-through video at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4SatfMwbHE>.

So: what is the pattern in the Riddler Express puzzle (Jun 22 #3)? It's element-ary.

Howard Ostrom's "The A-Z of Sherlock Holmes Performers" data-base now has more than 8,000 people who have appeared as Sherlock Holmes, or in Sherlockian costume <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>.

Japanese interest in Sherlock Holmes continues: there's now a translation of Roger Johnson and Jean Upton's *The Sherlock Holmes Miscellany* (Nov 12 #5), translated and edited by Masamichi Higurashi; you can see the colorful cover at <www.tinyurl.com/ywkf75bk>.

*Mr. Doyle's Class Presents A Study in Scarlet* is a delightful graphic novel published by the Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth in 2020 (70 pp., £10.00) <www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conan-doyle/shop>; adapted by Matthew Hardy for ages 7-11, it's an imaginative presentation of the story, with attractive art by Russell Mark Olson.

The Genesee Country Village & Museum in Mumford, N.Y., "the largest living history museum in New York state," will help you "step into the history, mystery, and culinary delights" of Sherlock Holmes on Aug. 6-7; their website's at <www.gcv.org/events/a-novel-weekend>.

There are more and more Sherlockian tattoos to be seen, thanks to the Internet <www.tinyurl.com/yc2ujv42>, and some of them are both imaginative and artistic.

Max Magee has noted the "Raffles Redux" web-site <www.rafflesredux.com>, where Sarah Morrissey and Genevieve L. Morrissey offer annotated versions of E. W. Hornung's "Raffles" stories, and his play "A Visit from Raffles" (1909), in which H. A. Saintsbury played the title role, making him one of the very few actors who have played both Raffles and Sherlock Holmes.

Treefort Media has produced a ten-episode audio mini-series "Moriarty: The Devil's Game" that will be available at Audible on July 7; you can listen to a sample at <www.audible.com/pd/Moriarty-Podcast/B0B2DZBVRR>.

Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch continues; his latest interviews have been with Henry Boote <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xK6KI813AiM> and with Evelyn Herzog <www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeQGdELPI1A>. Steve himself was featured in print in an interview in his hometown Zionsville Current on June 13 <www.tinyurl.com/k6jb3ptb>.

Jun 22 #5 Reported: "The Lion's Mane" reprinted in *Guilty Creatures: A Menagerie of Mysteries*, edited by Martin Edwards (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen, 2022; 308 pp., $14.54); the American edition of the British Library's anthology of mysteries in which animals play an important role. Amazon's "look inside" feature offers a chance to read the introduction, in which Edwards discusses Conan Doyle, and Heard's *A Taste for Honey*.

"Tribute to Sherlock Holmes on the Occasion of His Hundredth Birthday" was a 30-minute program broadcast by the BBC Home Service on Jan. 8, 1954, and it included Dennis Arundell (as Lord Peter Wimsey), recalling how he had once met Sherlock Holmes, in a segment written by Dorothy L. Sayers. The program has not survived, but her script was published in *Sayers on Holmes* (2001), and Allyn Gibson has found it at the "One Other Gaudy Night" blog <www.tinyurl.com/46s82jbh>.

Jennie Paton found a nice video tour ("Barcelona's Best Kept Secret") of the Biblioteca Pública Arús, which houses Joan Proubasta's extensive collection of Sherlockiana and Doyleana <www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfUR13xGOQQ> (the tour of his collection starts at 9:49).

An attractive oil-on-canvas painting by Walter Paget showing King Henry V at Agincourt was at auction this month <www.tinyurl.com/m78ssbsj>, with an estimate of $5,500-$8,250. Walter Paget (Sidney Paget's younger brother) illustrated "The Dying Detective", and this painting might well be considered Sherlockian since (according to Shakespeare) Henry V proclaimed "the game's afoot" long before Sherlock Holmes did. The painting didn't sell, presumably because bidding didn't reach the reserve set by whoever bought the painting for $5,000 earlier this year.

"Evaline and Mina didn't mean to get into the family business" is the hook for Colleen Gleason's series about Evaline Holmes (the niece of Sherlock) and Mina Stoker (the sister of Bram), set in a steampunk Victorian London. *The Carnelian Crow* (Avid, 2017; 256 pp., $19.99) and *The Zeppelin Deception* (Avid, 2019; 290 pp., $23.95) are the last of a five-book series of young-adult novels aimed at teen-age girls, and the stories offer romance, villainy, and lots of energy and excitement. The author's web-site is at <www.stokerandholmes.com>.

The Mini-Tonga Scion Society may be inactive, but people still are having fun creating Sherlockian miniatures: Samantha Wolov has noted Jamie Roberton's post to Instagram <www.tinyurl.com/4svnnkxw>.

The manuscript of "The Greek Interpreter" (owned by the late David Karpeles) will be offered at Heritage Auctions on July 16 with an opening bid of $100,000, with no reserve <www.tinyurl.com/3e5a7sfk>. Randall Stock's detailed page about the manuscript is at <www.tinyurl.com/yc79d8j8>.

There also will be some nice Sherlockiana and Doyleana in Heritage's sale 6253 (July 27-28) <www.tinyurl.com/2p93r9mf>, including Collier's Once a Week Library (1891, the first American edition of "The Sign of the Four") and the three-volume set of *Dreamland and Ghostland* (1887, with five non-Sherlockian stories, Conan Doyle's first appearance in a book in Britain).

Jun 22 #6 A copy of a later edition of ***The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes***, signed and inscribed by Conan Doyle to Lady Sackville, will be at auction on July 6 <www.tinyurl.com/nbe5y8d4>, estimated at €400-€500. Victoria Sackville-West, a colorful lady <www.tinyurl.com/55fvt64w>, isn't as well-known now as her daughter Vita Sackville West.

"You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?" asked Sherlock Holmes (in "The Three Gables"). A copy of the First Folio will be at auction at Sotheby's on July 21. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/5xp59nwd>.

Who knew? Sherlock was in Ballarat. Well, it was Jim Sherlock, and the Ballarat is in California, noted by Jenni Paton. It's a ghost town now, and according to Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/yhfdnwz2> it has one permanent resident. There's much more about Ballarat, and about some of its colorful residents, at <www.desertusa.com/desert-california/ballarat.html>.

Theater news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Burgfestspiele in Jagthausen, Germany, July 1-Aug. 25 <www.burgfestspiele-jagsthausen.de>, and at the Lamb's Player Theatre in Coronado, Calif., on Oct. 1-Nov. 20 <www.lambsplayer.org>.

The Our Star Theatre Company began touring James Barry's "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" in Britain on July 1 <www.ourstartheatrecompany.com>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be performeda at the Riverlea Theatre in Hamilton, New Zealand, July 2-16; website at <www.riverleatheatre.com>.

Todd Wallinger's "The Enchanted Bookshop" will be performed at the Royal Off-the-Square Theater in Brownstown, Ind., July 15-23 <www.jcct.org>.

The Gotham Radio Theatre will perform "Sherlock Holmes: Redheads and Bohemians (a dramatization of the two stories) at the Bedford Playhouse in Bedford, N.Y., on July 16 <www.bedfordplayhouse.org>.

Nick Lane's new "Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear" will be touring in Britain beginning at the Wilde Theatre in Bracknell, Berks., on Sept. 14 <www.blackeyedtheatre.co.uk>.

"Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" (by Jaime Robledo) has been scheduled at the CVIC Hall in Minden, Nev., Oct. 14-23 <www.carsonvalleycommunitytheatre.org>.

Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Portland Stage in Portland, Maine, Oct. 26-Nov. 13 <www.portlandstage.org>.

Nick Scovell's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem" will be performed at the TPS Studio in Petersfield, Hants., Nov. 2-5 <www.thestudiotps.com>.

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Jul 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"Sherlock Holmes Authors Raise $100,000 for Undershaw" was the headline on a press release (June 30) <www.einpresswire.com/article/575368182> about the generosity of authors who have contributed their royalties from the MX Publishing's *Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories* series to support the DFN Foundation's school for children with learning disabilities that now uses the first home that Conan Doyle built in Surrey. The series was launched in 2015 by editor David Marcum and now has 33 volumes of traditional Sherlock Holmes stories by more than 200 authors; there's detailed information about the series at <www.tinyurl.com/2p9axp9j>, and the school's web-site is at <www.undershaw.education>.

Registration's now open for "Jubilee @221B" in Toronto, Sept. 23-26. More information about the conference, sponsored by the Bootmakers of Toronto and the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, will be found at <www.acdfriends.org/jubilee221b.html>.

Les Klinger and Bert Coules were interviewed by Jon Rees and Karl Coppack on July 16 on their "Sherlock: From Adler to Amberley" blog available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wc7v7V5IZtQ>, and had interesting things to say about the Canon, and what people have done with or to it (their interview starts at 23:00). You're also welcome to visit their web-sites at <www.lesliesklinger.com> and <www.bertcoules.co.uk>.

Sherlock Holmes isn't all that well known, it would appear: a collection of twenty DVDs with "TV Classics" <www.ebay.com/p/6471353> was issued in 2003, and the classic heroes whose portraits were on the cases did not include Sherlock Holmes.

Jennie Paton has found "The Private Eyes" (1980) at Dailymotion; it's a comedy that starred Don Knotts as Inspector Winship and Tim Conway as Dr. Tart in Canonical costume <www.dailymotion.com/playlist/x733x1>, but without the scene reported in the original release in which Conway wore Sherlockian costume when Dr. Tart impersonated Inspector Winship.

The spring issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust's electronic newsletter For the Sake of the Trust, now edited by Ray Betzner, has been uploaded to the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org>; there's an article by Bob Coghill about his adventures with the carboard box(es), and other news about the Trust's activities, and you're more than welcome to explore the Trust's web-site.

"The Literary Lounge is an exclusive speakeasy-style pop-up event inspired by Sherlock Holmes. Complete with cigar+port pairings, signature cocktails —including a CBD-infused drink, a limited bites menu, and views of beautyful Kansas Avenue from the private third-floor balcony. It's elementary, my dear. Bring your most cunning and clever friends for an evening of literary libations and fun." That's the promotion for an occasional event at the Cyrus Hotel in Topeka <www.tinyurl.com/4868tb2t>; there's more about the hotel at <www.cyrushotel.com> (in case you want to spend a night there reading "The Three Garridebs").

Jul 22 #2 The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of The Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Tim Johnson's long interview with Larry Millett about the past and future history of his series of novels about Sherlock Holmes and Shadwell Rafferty, and Musings by Julie McKuras in which she announces her retirement after 23 years of editing the newsletter. Copies are available from Tim Johnson (Elmer L. Anderson Library #15-G, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455).

June L. Kinnee ("Miss Hatty Doran") died on May 25, 2022. She was a longtime member of the Trained Cormorants of Los Angeles County and one of the founders of the Curious Collectors of Baker Street, and for many years an enthusiastic ticket-seller for the Watson Fund raffle. June received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1999.

"The Adventure of the Trying Detective" is the latest "Baker Street Elementary" comic book from Joe Fay and Rusty and Steve Mason. You can find all of their comic books (and their comic strip) at the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* web-site <www.dfw-sherlock.org/baker-street-elementary.html>.

*Sherlock Holmes and the Fiends of New York City* is the latest in the series of excellent audio recording by Big Finish; Nicholas Briggs stars as Sherlock Holmes, with Richard Earl as Watson and a strong supporting cast, in an interesting story written by Jonathan Barnes; 180 minutes on three CDs ($30.25 CD+download or $19.99 download only), and you can listen to a sample at their web-site <www.bigfinish.com>, where you'll find many other recordings available.

Roraima (the Venezuelan tepui considered by many to be the inspiration for "The Lost World") seems to be getting crowded: there's another documentary film ("House of the Gods") <www.vimff.org/film/house-of-the-gods> that has not yet made it to television, but you can watch a trailer for the film at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKhEpe8Rzww>.

Something new in Sherlockian artwork: "The Case of the Dueling Sherlocks" and "Sherlock Holmes at the Tower of London" are two performance-art photographs offered by Robert Kawika Sheer <www.spiritshadows.net>; you can search for [sherlock] to find them easily.

Erika Kobayashi reminisces about "On Growing Up in a Household of Sherlock Translators" in a nice article at Crime Reads <www.tinyurl.com/2p88wmdu>. Her father was the late Tsukasa Kobayashi and her mother is Akane Higashiyama; they were co-founders of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club, and Akane is its president.

John Wesley Anderson's *Sherlock Holmes in Little London: 1896 The Missing Year* (Colorado Springs: Circle Star, 2020; 303 pp., $29.95) has Holmes and Watson, commissioned by the Queen herself, in hot pursuit of counterfeiters in a case that involves travel around the world, and keeps them busy for an entire year. "Little London" is Colorado Springs (the author is a Colorado historian), and they spend much of the year in the American west. The author's web-site is at <www.jwander.com>.

Jul 22 #3 "The Masks of Death" (1984) was a British television film that was broadcast in 1984, with Peter Cushing as Holmes and John Mills as Watson, and some fine supporting actors (including Anne Baxter, Ray Milland, and Gordon Baxter); it was issued on a VHS cassette, but apparently never on DVD, and it is nice indeed that Jennie Paton has found it available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFdSse40-Qk>.

It's a thoroughly tenuous connection, unless there's really a connection between Sherlock Holmes and Nero Wolfe, but there's the pilot for a "Nero Wolfe" television series, made for CBS-TV 1959, that never was broadcast, reported by Lenny Picker <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_AoebAAig4>: "Count the Man Down" starred Kurt Kaznar as Nero and William Shatner as Archie, many years before Shatner played Stapleton in Stewart Granger's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972).

"A Small Study of Ink Marks" is a new Sherlockian society founded by Monica Schmidt; their motto is "Have Sherlockian ink (tattoos)? Join us!" If you qualify, contact Monica at 1640 Deborah Drive NE, Solon, IA 52333, or <sweeper887@gmail.com>.

"Sherlock's Mystery" (reported by Jennie Paton at YouTube) is impressive <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWqlaaYuOXo>.

Dan Stashower's next book will be *American Demon: Eliot Ness and the Hunt for America's Jack the Ripper*, due from Minotaur in September; Dan assures his fellow Sherlockians that Sherlock Holmes is mentioned in the book, and you can read Lenny Picker's interview with Dan in Publishers Weekly (July 1) <www.tinyurl.com/hvbwxzus>.

*My Scientific Methods,* edited by Dana Richards (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2022; 244 pp., $39.95), the next title in the BSI's Professions Series, explores "science in the Sherlockian Canon" and includes scholarship about most of the sciences that appear in the stories, and about Conan Doyle himself as a scientist, concluding with Ashley Polasek's essay "Techno-Rebel: A Case for Steampunk Holmes". The book can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.

Harvey Dinnerstein died on June 21. He was a noted artist and educator, best known for his sketches of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1956 and the trials that followed. He also provided illustrations for *Tales of Sherlock Holmes*, a collection published by Macmillan in 1963; you can see one of his illustrations for the book at <www.weheartit.com/entry/316527741>.

There have been many bush fires reported in Australia, including one near Sherlock Station in Western Australia. Sherlock Station has an entry at Wikipedia <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock_Station>, without information on who named it, and why. But there's a Sherlock River not far from the Station. The river was named on July 11, 1861 by the surveyor and explorer Frank Gregory while on expedition in the area (according to Wikipedia), too early to be Canonical; Gregory's report is available on-line <www.gutenberg.org/files/10461/10461-h/10461-h.htm>, but he says only that he named the river Sherlock and doesn't say why.

Jul 22 #4 The Smithsonian Magazine has reported that the oldest footage of New Orleans has been found (in Amsterdam), with a two-minute view of an 1898 Mardi Gras parade <www.tinyurl.com/ys2j2caz>. There's nothing known of what happened to "Samson of New Orleans" (mentioned in "A Study in Scarlet", but if he still was there in 1898, here's what he might have seen <www.youtube.com/watch?v=65DpZ_0nByE>.

If you've been using Google Images <www.images.google.com> to find images on the Internet, you might also consider TinEye <www.tinyeye.com>, noted by Brandon Daniel; TinEye is an archive of (as of June 2022) 54.3 billion images, and uses Application Programming Interfaces to help you with all sorts of things, including image verification.

And there's more about Sherlock in Western Australia: there's also a Sherlock Bay, named after the river, and the Sherlock Bay Project, which is a nickel-copper-cobalt deposit waiting for development as an open-pit mine <www.miningdataonline.com/property/262/Sherlock-Bay-Project.aspx>.

Bill Barnes notes that there also is a Sherlock in South Australia ("two or three buildings at most, situated on a highway." It apparently was officially named in 1907, with "no research so far on the relevance of the name" <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock,_South_Australia>.

Alexis Soloski's article "The Shape-Shifting Sherlock Holmes, Now Playing the Villain" in the N.Y. Times (July 6) <www.tinyurl.com/ya6kmp55> was inspired by the new 10-episode "Moriarty: The Devil's Game" (now available on Audible). Soloski quotes Leslie Klinger, Nicholas Meyer, Ashley Polasek, as well as Charles Kindinger, who wrote the audio drama. If you're blocked by the paper's pay-wall, the article was reprinted in the Indian Express (July 7) <www.tinyurl.com/yz7yff7e>.

Scripts for two of David MacGregor's comedies ("The Adventure of the Elusive Ear" and "The Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé") have been published by TRW Plays <www.trwplays.com/david-macgregor> ($12.95 each for print and $9.00 for digital). His third comedy ("Sherlock Holmes and the Ghost Machine") is due later this year, and he has fun with Holmes and Watson and Irene Adler (who has moved into 221B Baker Street and is pretending to be Mrs. Hudson for the sake of propriety).

Roger Angell died on May 20. He began contributing to The New Yorker in 1944, became its fiction editor in 1956, and had a legendary career over decades at the magazine, writing about baseball and anything else that interested him. His "Turtletaub and the Foul Distemper" (May 30, 1970) had many Sherlockian references (including an evil air pilot named Col. Sebastian Moran).

"I Always Feel Like Somebody's Watching Me: The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues" is the title of Howard Ostrom's newly-revised and expanded (and well-illustrated) essay about more than 50 statues of Sherlock Holmes; you can read (and download) the essay at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8dc6vy>. And his essay on "Holmes Was a Dummy" (about Sherlock Holmes puppetry) is available at <www.tinyurl.com/z7jj4az6>.

Jul 22 #5 It was the geologist/astronaut Jack Schmidt who named Sherlock Crater on the Moon in recognition of Sherlock Holmes as a geologist, but the mission didn't include a visit to the crater. But there's now the Artemis Project, and plans to send astronauts to the Moon again in 2025, recently discussed in GEO ExPro <www.tinyurl.com/mr2m3dee>. One can only hope that at long last they'll be able to visit Sherlock Crater.

The copy of a later edition of *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, signed and inscribed by Conan Doyle to Lady Sackville-West, at auction on July 6 with an estimate of €400-€500 (Jun 22 #6), sold for €4,423 (including the buyer's premium).

Reported: a new (and revised) edition of David Stuart Davies' *Bending the Willow: Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes* due on Sept. 1 from TV Brain but available for pre-order now (£22.99) <www.tvbrain.info/shop>; first published in 1996 (Mar 97 #2).

If you want a copy of the first printing of the splendid catalog for the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" exhibition at the Grolier Club in New York, there may be few copies still available at the Mysterious Bookshop ($60.00) <www.tinyurl.com/bdfzrfpk>. The exhibition next will be at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., Aug 1-Dec. 15, and there will be a second printing available there ($80.00). The exhibition's excellent web-site's at <www.sherlockin221objects.org>.

"Albatross" (2011) is an interesting British coming-of-age film that stars Jessica Brown Findlay as Emilia, who introduces herself as a descendant of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and wants to be a writer; the film has quite a few Doylean (and some Sherlockian) touches.

"The Fires of Fate" (1923) is one of many lost silent films; it was dramatized from Conan Doyle's "The Tragedy of the Korosko" and released in the U.S. as "The Desert Sheik" (1924), and a colorful lithograph-on-linen poster for the film was sold at Heritage Auctions on July 15 for $2,160 (including the buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/mtj6uf9j>. It's interesting to consider the title change: one might suspect that the distributor hoped that people would think they were going to see Rudolph Valentino in "The Sheik" (1921).

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder had a nice interview with Paul Eckrich and Rob Nunn, the editors of *The Finest Assorted Collection: Essays on Collecting Sherlock Holmes* (Jan 22 #2), discussing collectors and their collections, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/bden49yp>.

Late-breaking news: Rebecca Romney is helping Curtis Armstrong deaccession his Sherlockian collection: about 25 boxes of material collected over more than 40 years, with more than one thousand items. Her rare-book company, Type Punch Matrix, is creating a special mailing list for Sherlockians who would like to have first crack at the material; if you'd like to be on her mailing list, you can contact her at <info@typepunchmatrix.com>.

Jul 22 #6 The manuscript of "The Greek Interpreter" (owned by the late David Karpeles) was sold at Heritage Auctions on July 16, for $350,000 (including the buyer's premium), almost setting a new record for a manuscript of a Sherlock Holmes short story ("The Sussex Vampire" sold for $399,500 in 2004). The new owner is Glen Miranker, who now owns more Sherlockian manuscripts than any living collector. Randall Stock's manuscripts web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc79d8j8> has more information. Auction results are often interesting: a single page from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" sold for $423,000 last year (Nov 21 #5).

Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch continues; his latest interview is with Robert Veld <www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q2860rdYCU>.

The August Derleth Society <www.augustderleth.org> was founded in the late 1970s and continues to celebrate the many-faceted literary career of the creator of Solar Pons. Membership costs $25.00 a year and includes their quarterly newsletter Sage of Sac Prairie; the latest issue offers a nicely illustrated article by Derrick Belanger on "The Science Fiction of August Derleth" (some of which was Pontine). The society's postal address is Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583, and their web-site's at <www.augustderleth.org>.

An oil-on-canvas painting by Sidney Paget of a "Highland River Landscape" was at auction this month <www.tinyurl.com/543vbb3u>, estimated at £500-£700; bidding didn't reach the reserve, and the painting wasn't sold.

Theater news: Neill Hartley will perform his one-man show "Sherlock Holmes & the Speckled Band" at Pennypacker Mills in Schwencksville, Pa., on Aug. 20 <www.montcopa.org/928/Pennypacker-Mills>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Riverfall Way" has been scheduled by the Elite Arts Company at the Bullard Creek Auditorium in Midland, Mich., on Aug. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/2vxxksxb>.

Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Blue Moon Theatre in Woodstown, N.J., Sept. 16-25; their web-site's at <www.thebluemoontheatre.com>

K. C. Brown's "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" is due at the Bernie Legge Theatre in New Westminster, B.C., Oct. 6-22 <www.vagabondplayers.ca>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" will be performed at the Toledo Repertoire Theatre, Oct. 21-39; web-site at <www.toledorep.org>.

John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Carver Theatre in Stockport, Cheshire, Nov. 11-19; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/46pbywp2>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Aug 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

This year's Baker Street Irregulars Trust annual webinar lecture will be given by Ray Betzner on Sept. 17 on "The Story of a Sherlockian Sonnet"; Ray's a fervent admirer of, and an expert on, the sonnet's author, Vincent Starrett <www.bsitrust.org/2022/08/register-2022-lecture.html>. The lecture will be free via Zoom, but space may be limited, and early registration is recommended.

The BSI conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn went very well and was great fun. The conference proceedings will be published by the BSI, but if you weren't there, and would like to see what you missed, there's a short report, with nice photographs, at the BSI web-site <www.tinyurl.com/f3xrvnm4>. There's also a link to Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" report (with some interviews) on what went on.

Some of the old hands who were at the conference recalled the years when Bob Thomalen's "Autumn in Baker Street" was held at the Bear Mountain Inn, which then was far less fancy than it is now. But even then it was nicer than what the state of New York originally planned to build at the site: Sing Sing Prison.

If you are going to be at Bouchercon in Minneapolis: Dick Sveum will modate a Sherlock Holmes morning panel on Sept. 10, with Dana Cameron, Laurie R. King, Leslie S. Klinger, and Liese Sherwood-Fabre.

According to Variety <www.tinyurl.com/yjavtyp3>, Millie Bobby Brown will receive $10 million for her appearance in "Enola Holmes 2", and according to People/Entertainment Weekly <www.tinyurl.com/2cz2us9u>, the film will debut on Netflix on Nov. 4 (the story has some images from the film).

Peter McIntyre has reported that Dr. Doyle (a bay gelding) finished first at Monmouth Park, N.J., on July 31; he was the favorite and the payout was $7.20/$4.80/$2.60.

The ACD Society has published a "terrifying update" on its continuing on-line annotated version of the manuscript of "The Terror of Blue John Gap", edited by Margie Deck and Nancy Holder <www.acdsociety.com>. it's a fine example of what on-line scholarship has to offer to anyone with access to the Internet.

It should be noted that Margie Deck does far more than perform as half of the ACD Society's "terror team"; her interesting "Dotings on Doyle" blog ("Reading & Writing with Arthur Conan Doyle & Sherlock Holmes") is on-line at <www.margiedeck.blogspot.com>.

Steve Doyle's Fortnightly Dispatch ended its current season with his interview with Ray Betzner and Steve Rothman, and a discussion of Alexander Woollcott, his relationship with and membership in the Baker Street Irregulars <www.youtube.com/watch?v=v50i6TTY19A>. Steve's next season will begin after a summer break.

Aug 22 #2 Emiel Van Wezel has reported Amanda Williams' interesting web-site <www.buzzaboutbees.net> devoted to "the wonderful world of bees," and a post about "Sherlock Holmes and Bees: Arthur Conan Doyle and the Retirement of His Famous Detective" that offers some interesting Sherlockian and Doylean clippings from various Australian newspapers, at <www.tinyurl.com/muc7w7wf>.

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

Snoopy appears in Sherlockian costume in two production cels from "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (1974) up for bids at Heritage Auctions on Sept. 23-25 <www.tinyurl.com/35rbyrj8?>.

Maggie Fox died on Mar. 21. She acted on film and television in Britain, but was best known for her many performances with her LipService partner Sue Ryding in parodies such as "Move Over Moriarty" (1996), in which she played Sherlock Holmes on tour for years in Britain and at least once in the U.S.

"I'm sitting low in a Watsonian basket, bolted securely to the side of Simon's burnished-red Royal Enfield Interceptor 650 motorcycle," Anna Hartley wrote in an article in the travel section of the Washington Post (Aug. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/mr2f5wu8>. One often sees the word Sherlockian, but the word Watsonian not so much; it's in the Oxford English Dictionary (and first noted as used by E C. Bentley in *Those Days* (1940).

On the other hand (thanks to Roger Johnson, who knows more about what is going on in Britain): T. F. Watson, a Birmingham builder, patented a design for a folding sidecar, and Watsonian Squire still offers a wide variety of sidecars <www.watsonian-squire.com>.

"Drool over the personal bookplates of 18 famous writers" was the headline on Emily Temple's post <www.tinyurl.com/yc3uvnwd> to the Literary Hub website on July 19; one of the famous writers is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but the bookplate isn't his. The bookplate displays the ornate family coat of arms obtained by Adrian Conan Doyle from the Dublin Herald; Adrian placed in all of the books in his father's library when Adrian moved into the Château de Lucens

So Far Down Queer Street is a new on-line journal that focuses on "Aspects of Sherlock Holmes Canon and Adaptations Not Usually Covered" and its website's at <www.downqueerstreet.com>; click on the menu (at upper right) to find a link to the first issue.

The Hudson Valley Sciontists will celebrate their Fiftieth Anniversary on Sept. 18, with cocktails and dinner at the Vassar College Alumnae House in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (with some of its founding members on hand for the festivities). Additional information is available from Lou Lewis (510 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.

Aug 22 #3 Adrienne Mayor's *Flying Snakes & Griffin Claws* (Princeton University Press, 2022; 430 pp, $18.95) is a wide-ranging and entertaining exploration of "classical myths, historical oddities, and scientific curiosities" that includes a chapter on "Sea Monsters and Mer-People of the Mediterranean" (and mention of Conan Doyle's account of having seen what he believed to be a young plesiosaur off the coast of the Greek island Aegina in 1928).

June Thomson died on July 26. She was a featured speaker at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner in 2008, and a prolific author, credited with 24 novels, six collections of imaginative Sherlockian pastiches, and a fine biography of Sherlock Holmes.

Just the thing for Sherlockian geologists: a statue of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* in Sherlockian costume is one of the latest additions to Howard Ostrom's well-illustrated essay on "The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues", which is available at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8dc6vy>. If you want to see the statue, it's in Norwich (where Abe Slaney was condemned to death, as noted in "The Dancing Men").

Anyone who owns a copy of *The Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy*, which was letterpress printed and hand-bound at the Thornwillow Press (Oct 17 #2), will be aware of the fine work they do. You can see what else they have done (and are still doing) by exploring their web-site <www.thornwillow.com>. Copies of the *Hexalogy* still are available.

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 there's plenty of evidence for that in the electronic newsletter of the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, founded by Brad Keefauver in 2021. Bruce Harris, is one of its members, and he believes that the best thing about Canonical chronology is that there are no right or wrong answers, but in his new *It's Not Always 1895: A Sherlockisn Chronology* (124 pp., $9.95 at Amazon) he offers his own dates for all sixty stories and an excellent look at what can be done with and to the Canon.

Jennie Paton has discovered an advertisement for Sherlock Home (A House of Conundrums) in San Antonio, Tex. <www.tinyurl.com/ymhxxz63>; the Airbnb is described as "a unique immersive overnight experience" in a house designed as an entire evening of game-play for 2-5 guests. "Become Sherlock Holmes surrounded by a Victorian/steampunk setting filled with escape-room-like puzzles and conundrums to solve while you stay."

Hank Ketcham's "Dennis the Menace" comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on July 17 <www.comicskingdom.com/dennis-the-menace>.

There was active bidding for the Sherlockiana and Doyleana in the Heritage Auctions sale 6253 last month (Jun 22 #5); a copy of Collier's Once a Week Library (1891, the first American edition of "The Sign of the Four") sold for $13,570 (including the buyer's premium), and the three-volume set of *Dreamland and Ghostland* (1887, with five of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories, his first appearance in a book in Britain) went for $2,250.

Aug 22 #4 Emma McGill has won the 2022 Irene Adler Prize: a $1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature. Established in 2017 by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning writer and public speaker in Vancouver, B.C.; it is indeed named for the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia". You can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay, at <www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>.

Peter Bowles died on Mar. 17. He had a long career on stage, screen, and television, with starring roles in the BBC series "Rumpole of the Bailey" (1978), "To the Manor Born" (1979), and "The Irish R.M." (1983). He also played Harvey Deacon in a BBC dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Playing with Fire" (1967) and Joseph Harrison in the BBC's "The Naval Treaty" (1968).

"I hear of Sherlock everywhere." This one (noted by Jennie Paton) is in Chester, Conn., and available for only $32,900 <www.tinyurl.com/3fh66jj4>.

The ten-episode audio mini-series "Moriarty: The Devil's Game" (Jun 22 #4) is featured at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog, where Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed Charles Kindinger, who wrote the script. He first encountered Sherlock Holmes watching "Wishbone" and went on to read all the stories and enjoy creating the mini-series.

Russian artist Margaryta Yermolayeva (now living in the U.S.) creates colorful canvas prints that include a "Sherlock Holmes" scene inspired by the Russian "Baskerville Dog" television program she watched while growing up <www.tinyurl.com/54scytwx>.

Publishers Weekly has reported that HarperCollins has bought, "in a six-figure preempt," Ali Standish's *The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall;* it's a three-book middle-grade series in which "a young Arthur Conan Doyle is selected to attend Baskerville Hall, a school for the extraordinarily gifted." The first book is due in fall 2023.

"The Store for All Sorts: Half Price Books Turns 50" is the headline on a grand story in D Magazine (July 15) <www.tinyurl.com/yc3mywk2> (forwarded by Bill Seil) about why the store (in Dallas, Tex.) has survived so long (now with more than 120 stores in 19 states); they also sell books on-line <www.hpb.com>.

What do you call a squirrel that solves crimes? Jennie Paton has reported a video: <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzB2YVNU9e0>.

The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., this fall will feature a new play "Send in the Clowns" (Oct. 14-16 and 21-23) and performances of Gayle Stahlhuth's "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Norwood Builder" by the Cape May Players (Oct. 21-22) <www.tinyurl.com/28ex38fa>.

Reported: Martin Edwards' new anthology *Murder by the Book: Mysteries for Bibliophiles* (Poisoned Pen, $14.99) includes a reprint of S. C. Roberts' classic pastiche "The Strange Case of the Megatherium Thefts". It's also available at Audible, read by Ben Onwukwe; you can sample the recording at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/36kha84c>.

Aug 22 #5 When in Barbados: you can visit the Chase Vault in the cemetery of Christ Church Parish, which Conan Doyle believed was haunted. The vault is empty now, and open to any visitors brave enough to step inside, according to a story <ww.tinyurl.com/3ja2r8t4> in the Daily Mirror (Aug. 8). You can read what Conan Doyle had to say about the vault in his article "The Law of the Ghost" (1919), reprinted in *The Edge of the Unknown* (1930).

Conan Doyle Walk in Swindon is in the news (again). Five years ago, when John Blick lived there, he was charged with three counts of assault (Aug 17 #4). Now the Swindon Advertiser <www.tinyurl.com/5xsehcjz> has reported that James Dean Webdell, also a resident of Conan Doyle Walk, has been charged with brandishing a taser in a brawl in a local pub.

There was much more to the Festival of Britain in 1951 than the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House (some of the items on display there still can be seen at The Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street); there is a colorful commemoration of the Festival at the National Archives web-site <www.tinyurl.com/c5pffptc>.

David Warner died on July 24. His began acting on stage in 1962, and went on to play Hamlet with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and then had a long career in film, radio, and television, including a performance as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the TV movie "Houdini" (1998).

Henye Meyer's *Detective by Design* (Brooklyn: Menucha Publishers, 2022; 245 pp., $28.49) offers an answer to the question "what if Sherlock Holmes had been a Jewish woman?" The book is an homage rather than a pastiche: Mrs. Rosa Adler is the detective, in Victorian London, and is adept at observation and deduction.

Jem Belcher will be found in *Rodney Stone* ("Say `sir' when you speak to a genelman," said Belcher, and with a sudden tilt of the table he sent Berks flying almost into my uncle's arms.) and he's mentioned in "The Forbidden Subject" in *Three of Them*. A new film "Prizefighter: The Life of Jim Belcher" (2022) has an official trailer <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Viw3fOgxaes> and was reviewed at Boxing Social on July 24 <www.tinyurl.com/2p8dem6d>; it's now streaming on Amazon Prime.

The BBC is celebrating its centenary this year with an interesting web-site that features 100 important objects <www.tinyurl.com/8wrkad3x> that include the "iconic Belstaff Milford coast worn by Benedict Cumberbatch om the BBC's "Sherlock" series.

Ken Greenwald died on May 14. A dedicated enthusiast old-time radio, he was the mastermind behind a company he called 221 "A" Baker Street Associates; in the 1980s and 1990s he produced a long series of audiocassettes with Sherlock Holmes radio programs he rescued from original transcription disks. He also adapted some of the Rathbone/Bruce scripts as short stories in *The Lost Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1989). You can listen to a warm tribute to Ken by John Tefteller (with two non-Sherlockian shows) at his "The Good Old Days of Radio Show" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/54tan9t7>.

**Aug 22 #6** Curtis Armstrong has announced a call for nominations for the 2023 Susan Rice Mentorship Award, which is given each year to "one outstanding Sherlockian mentor who, like the late Susan Rice, is committed to bringing aspiring Sherlockians into the cause, and encouraging them to find ways to keep green the memory of Sherlock Holmes." Neither the mentor nor the mentee need to be a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, and the winner will be announced during the birthday festivities in New York in January 2023. Information about the criteria and history of the award can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/susanriceaward>. Nominations, with a brief explanation of how they honor Susan's spirit of mentorship, should be sent by Oct. 30 to <susanricementorshipaward@gmail.com>.

Jennie Paton has found "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1937) on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVh9KBpernQ>. The film that starred Bruno Güttner as Holmes and Fritz Odemar as Watson, and a copy of the film was found by Allied troops in Adolph Hitler's private film library at Berchtesgaden (Edgar W. Smith reported this in the Apr. 1948 issue of the Baker Street Journal). Alas: there are no subtitles, so you'll need some German to understand everything.

Candidates for "favorite first lines" can be interesting indeed, and great fun. Janet Rudolph (edited of Mystery Scene) suggests "There's a time and place for erect nipples, but the back of a Seattle police car definitely isn't it." That's the opening of Jennifer Hillier's *Things We Do in the Dark* (Minotaur Books, July 2022).

Something new in Sherlockian scholarship: Anna Brindisi-Behrens' article "A Study in Speech: The Use of Lisps in the Sherlock Holmes Canon and Beyond" will be found in the summer issue of Canadian Holmes, which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto, always with news of Sherlockian goings-on in Canada. $30.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost $12.00 <www.torontobootmakers.com>. The issue also includes Ross Davies' discussion of "A Well-Armed, Whistful Colonel" [that's not a typo].

Simon Trelawney's *Sherlock Holmes and the Ciphered List* (Cambridge: Breese Books, 2022; 339 pp., $15.50) opens with Holmes agreeing to assist a lady who explains that she has accidentally killed a man who was blackmailing her, and quickly becoming involved in a battle again German spies; Watson is far more adventurous in this pastiche than in the Canon, but of course all's well at the end.

"There have been numerous allusions over the years of Clive Reston's rather infamous family tree. His father, though never referenced by name, is British secret agent, James Bond. His great-uncle is London's most notorious detective, Sherlock Holmes. Due to licensing rights, Marvel Comics has never directly stated that either of these literary figures are related to Clive Reston, but the various implications leave little doubt as to their true identities." Yes, that would make Mycroft Holmes the father of James Bond and the grandfather of Clive Reston, who is a character in the Marvel comic-book series "Master of Kung Fu"; you can read all about this genealogy at the PageLagi web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yp9cc2zf> reported by Jennie Paton.

Aug 22 #7 The Long Beach Shakespeare Company continues to offer excellent live radio productions, and has kindly made some of their older recordings available at no charge <www.tinyurl.com/2p9xjr48>. You can listen to their versions of "A Scandal in Bohemia", "The Final Problem", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (and many other non-Sherlockian shows).

In case you don't already have the two-volume *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* (1953) signed by Conan Doyle, there's a copy at auction at PBA Galleries in San Francisco <www.tinyurl.com/38smpbjd> on Sept. 9, with an estimate of $10,000-$15,00 and an opening bid of $5,000.

Paul Spiring reports that Baskerville Hall is up for sale, with an asking price of £650,000 <www.tinyurl.com/yzywjdnj>. Alas: it's not the actual Baskerville Hall, but rather the home of B. Fletcher Robinson's coachman Harry Baskerville, whose name Conan Doyle borrowed for the story, and it's not where Harry Baskerville was living when the story was written.

*Agatha Christie: Marple: Twelve New Mysteries* (New York: William Morrow, 2022; 370 pp., $28.99) is an anthology of stories featuring Miss Marple, not written by Christie but rather by a dozen authors whose work will be enjoyed by admirers of Jane Marple. Val McDermid and others do very well in the world of Miss Marple, in St. Mary Mead and elsewhere (including New York and a cruise ship on its way to Hong Kong).

Howard Ostrom reports a new addition to the list of people who have played both Holmes and Moriarty (sort of): Vincent Price, whose Ratigan in "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986) was modeled on the evil professor, is seen in Sherlockian costume in "Elvira Meets Vincent Price #5" in the Dynamite Comics mini-series <www.tinyurl.com/yphfm6bm>.

Josephine Tewson died on Aug. 18. She had a long career on stage and in television in Britain, perhaps best known for her supporting role as the neighbor in "Keeping Up Appearances". She had supporting roles in "Elementary My Dear Watson" on Comedy Playhouse (1973), "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It" (1977), and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978).

Travis McDade's article "The Inside Story of the $8 Million Heist from the Carnegie Library" ran in Smithsonian magazine in Sept. 2020; it recently appeared again at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ypa3cmdz>, and is well worth reading by anyone interested in the world of rare books, even if it doesn't mention Holmes or Conan Doyle.

Conan Doyle is not forgotten in Edinburgh: there's the statue of Sherlock Holmes, not far from the Conan Doyle Pub near Picardy Place, where Conan Doyle was born, and the Dunedin School now in Liberton Bank House, where he lived as a child, and the Conan Doyle Medical Center just next door at 4 Nether Liberton Lane <www.portobello-conandoylesurgery.co.uk>. According to the Edinburgh Evening News (Aug. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/38yej628>, Dr. A. Comiskey and Partners at the Conan Doyle Center were ranked second in a Scottish government health and care survey.

Aug 22 #8 ***Exploits and Adventures of Brigadier Gerard***, with a fine introduction by George MacDonald Fraser (New York Review Books, 2001; 417 pp., $18.95), collects all of the short stories about the Brigadier, and offers a chance to see just how good a story-teller Conan Doyle was (Fraser suggests that Conan Doyle "was touched with genius," and does a grand job of explaining why.

The Sewing Crow-Bees <www.sewingcrowbees.org> aren't a Sherlockian society, but they are based in Crowborough (where Conan Doyle lived at Windlesham), and they work hard at supporting local and national charities.

Our postage rates have gone up again: 60¢ for the first ounce and 24¢ each for additional ounces within the U.S., and $1.40 for the first ounce outside the U.S. It cost me 3¢ when I wrote my first letter, and I remember the complaints when the rate rose to 4¢ in 1958.

Theatrics: Peter Colley's new play "The Real Sherlock Holmes" is running at the Lighthouse Theatre in Port Dover, Ont., through Sept. 3, and then will be at the Colborne Theatre in Colborne, Ont. Sept. 7-18' web-site at <www.lighthoustheatre.com/event/the-real-sherlock>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is on at the Lifeline Theatre in Chicago, Ill., through Oct.16 <www.lifelinetheatre.com>.

Paul Gosling's new "The Casebook of Dr. Watson (A Sherlock Holmes Parody)" will be produced at the Sue Townsend Theatre in Leicester, Leics., Sept. 8-9 <www.tinyurl.com/5ee8kjpf>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the White Rock Players' Club in White Rock, B.C., Sept. 29-Oct. 16 <www.whiterockplayers.ca>; at the Westchester Playhouse in Los Angeles, Calif., Mar. 17-Apr. 8, 2023 <www.kentwoodplayers.org>; and at the freeFall Theatre in St. Petersburg, Fla., Mar. 23-Apr. 23; web-site at <www.freefalltheatre.com>.

Owen Thomas' "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Nigel Miles-Thomas as Holmes) has completed its run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and is set for an extensive tour: at the Shangri-La Chang Mai (Thailand), Sept. 30-31; at the Continental Hotel in Saigon (Viet Nam), Oct. 7-8; at the Sukhothai hotel in Bangkok (Thailand), Oct. 21-23; and at the Marriott Hotel in Phuket (Thailand), Oct. 27-29.

Eric Coble's "The Baker Street Irregulars" is due at the Trinity Preparatory School in Winter Park, Fla., Oct. 7-8 <www.cfcarts.com/sherlock>.

Richard James' "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery at Mallen Hall" is to be performed at the Ritchie Memorial Hall in Eastleigh, Hants., on Oct. 27-29 <www.chameleontheatre.co.uk>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Sep 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The *Baker Street Almanac 2022*, 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/2022.html> or from The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015), with a copiously-annotated edition of "The Abbey Grange" (and much more about the Sherlockian world); it's modestly described as an "annual capsule of a timeless past and future," and this year offers 372 pages of thoroughly enjoyable reading. Almanacs for previous years are available on-line (free) as PDFs at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html>.

"London Plaques to People Who Never Existed" is the headline on a recent post at the Londonist web-site <www.tinyurl.com/bdfvh79f> that begins with "A Pair of Sherlocks, Smithfield and Piccadilly" and shows the plaques inside Barts, installed in 1953, and the Criterion (now Granaio), installed in 1981.

Howard Ostrom's newly revised "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" has been posted at <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>; it now has 8,250 entries (and 17,000 images) from stage, screen, radio, television, fashion, advertising, cosplay, music, fandom, and the Internet. "You must see this to believe it," according to Howard, and he's right. He also asks you to let him know about anyone he has missed <howardostrom@gmail.com>.

Reported: *Long Memories and Other Writings*, by Peter Cannon (Hippocampus, 2022) includes a reprint of his novella *Pulptime: Being a Singular Adventure of Sherlock Holmes, H. P. Lovecraft, and the Kalem Club as If Narrated by Frank Belknap Long, Jr.* (1984).

"…of all characters in recent literature, as a matter of personal preference, I would choose to have been the creator of Sherlock Holmes." From a letter written by E. Phillips Oppenheim in 1927, with a long paragraph explaining the major reasons for his choice, offered by the Mysterious Bookshop in August for $100.00. The letter was published in the Strand Magazine (Dec. 1927) in a symposium on "The Great Characters of Fiction: Which Should I Most Like to Have Created?"

Conan Doyle's response to that question was, "I think Colonel Newcome, as the ideal English gentleman, would have my vote." The late Ted Schulz reported this back in 1983, and if you're wondering who Colonel Newcome was, Marsha Pollak quickly identified him as the principal character in William Makepeace Thackeray's *The Newcomes* (1853). If you would like to know more about the colonel, the book's readily available on-line (and free) at Project Gutenberg.

"This Map Lets You Plug in Your Address to See How It's Changed Over the Past 750 Million Years" is the headline on a story at the Smithsonian website about a new interactive map that's a grand demonstration of how modern technology has made geology so interesting; Sherlockians are welcome to see how London (well, the location of London) has changed over millions of years, or you can track your own home town <www.tinyurl.com/mrywj4wx>.

Sep 22 #2 "The Jewel in the Canon" is the next expedition planned by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London for Mar. 11-Apr. 2: a three-week trip to India, tailored for the Society and described as the "tour of a lifetime." You'll find the details, and an opportunity to register for more information about the tour, at <www.tinyurl.com/yrca5dsw>.

Nicholas Utechin ("The Ancient British Barrow") died on Aug. 17. He was a senior producer at BBC Radio 4, a dedicated Sherlockian scholar, a champion of Oxford in what he called "the controversity" over where Holmes was at college, the editor of the Sherlock Holmes Journal for thirty years, an honorary member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and an energetic contributor to the writings about the writings on both sides of the Atlsntic. The Baker Street Irregulars awarded his Investiture to Nick in 1975. If you want to see him in action, you can watch his (virtual) presentation about "British Beginnings" at a 2020 meeting of the Red Circle of Washington <www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPCoqU-VfRs>.

"Was This Letter Written by Sherlock Holmes?" was the headline on a story in Atlas Obscura (Sept. 15) <www.tinyurl.com/2p8zjyn8>; there's more at the Lilly Library now than Glen Miranker's exhibition "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" <www.sherlockin221objects.org>.

The late W. T. Rabe is still remembered fondly: Bill Castanier tells some nice stories about Bill (and quotes his epitaph) in the Lansing City Pulse (Jan. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/4y36mvmd>.

David Corbett's "The Murderer's Paradox" was published in the anthology *In League with Sherlock Holmes* (2020), and he had some interesting things to say about writing the pastiche, in his post to the Writer Unboxed blog on Dec. 11, 2020 <www.tinyurl.com/ae256n4z>. He quotes James N. Frey imagintive "Ten Rules of Writing" and you can read what Frey said about them at his web-site <www.jamesnfrey.com/articles/tenrules.html>.

Time for a trivia question, courtesy of Howard Ostrom: name the only known father and son who both played Sherlock Holmes.

"You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?" asked Sherlock Holmes (in "The Three Gables"). A copy of the First Folio offered at Sotheby's on July 21 sold for $2,470,000 (including the buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/mvaj5774>.

Mary Burke has forwarded the Babylon Bee's recent report from Dr. Sherlock Bones <www.tinyurl.com/mpds2cen>; the Babylon Bee's motto is "Fake news you can trust."

The Conan Doyle Collection lecture series in Portsmouth earlier this year (May 22 #4) included David Gigauri's lecture (via Zoom) about "Conan Doyle and the Magnificent Mdivani". There were five Mdivani children, sometimes called "the marrying Mdivanis" (the boys were known as "the million dollar studs"). One of Nina's husbands was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's son Denis, and in 1975 she was honored by the Baker Street Irregulars as *The* Woman. You can watch Gigauri's lecture on-line at <www.vimeo.com/714028872>.

Sep 22 #3 "The Princess's explorations in the field of English literature are of greater interest and perhaps of greater significance," Wilson Harris wrote in his article "The Education of a Queen" in the Atlantic Monthly (Dec. 1943). The princess was 17-year-old Elizabeth (now Elizabeth II), and Harris noted that "in lighter moments she turns to Conan Doyle (I hope *The White Company* as well as *Sherlock Holmes).*" The entire article is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2t94zjd4>.

Name the only father and son who both played Sherlock Holmes. Ian Richardson played Holmes on television in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1993), and Miles (his son) played Holmes on stage in "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure at Sir Arthur Sullivan's" (1994).

"Now that Wayne had broken through, he was keen to expand his big-screen horizons. When asked by Olive Carey, the wife of Western actor Harry Carey, what he'd like to do next, he said he'd like to play Edward the Black Prince in an adaptation of Arthur Conan Doyle's Hundred Years' War adventure, 'The White Company'." That's according to Jeremy Smith, who posted to Slash Film (Aug. 30), "Without a Bit of Blunt Advice, John Wayne Might Have Left Westerns Behind." <www.tinyurl.com/2p8ddtpy>. That would have been an adaptation by John Ford; read the post to see what Olive Carey's blunt advice was.

The Cohen Media Group <www.cohenmedia.net> offers a variety of high-quality 4K restorations of old films, including Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr." (1924); there's also his "Battling Butler" (1926), a non-Sherlockian film in which he's seen wearing a deerstalker, and you can see trailers for all of their films at their web-site.

Arthur Liebman ("Vamberry, the Wine Merchant") died on Aug. 18. He taught graduate-level courses in Mystery, Detective, and Gothic Fiction at Hofstra University and the State University of New York at Stony Brook, performed a popular one-man show "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes". He also organized "Sherlock Holmes Mystery Cruises" for the Holland-America Line, and wrote *The Biographical Sherlock Holmes: An Anthology/Handbook* (1984). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.

An oil-on-academy-board painting of "Cascade Inferieure du Reichenbach" by the Swiss landscape artist Alexandre Calame (1810-1864) was available at Thomaston Place Auction Galleries on Aug. 27, with an estimate of $8,000-$12,000; bidding didn't meet the reserve, and the painting didn't sell.

Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Elegant Escapade* (New York: Wednesday Books, 2022; 232 pp, $18.95), the eighth in her series about the sister of Sherlock Holmes, has Enola now living independently in London and working as a scientific perditioner, working hard to rescue a young girl from a brutish and evil father. Springer has won four Edgar Awards from the Mystery Writers of America, two of them for earlier books in the series, and it's nice see Enola back in action again. And there's no need to worry about spoilers: the new "Enola Holmes 2" film, coming up on Netflix on Nov. 4, has an entirely different plot. There's a trailer for the new film at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKXNmYoPkx0>.

Sep 22 #4 *Two Parts Sugar, One Part Murder*, by Valerie Burns (New York: Kensington, 2022; 266 pp., $16.95) is an interesting example of how Sherlock Holmes has become part of the cultural literacy; it's not a pastiche, but rather a sprightly murder mystery featuring Maddy Montgomery, a social-media devotee who inherits a small-town Michigan bakery from a great-aunt who may or may not have been murdered, and who has read Sherlock Holmes and is assisted by local residents she calls her Baker Street Irregulars.

The Hotel Rosenlaui <www.rosenblaui.ch> is a refuge for those who want to get away from modern digital distractions: "The common rooms offer reading materials, games, and plenty of room for discussions. TV, radio, and Internet connections are not available. The hotel has limited reception for mobile phones." It's also possible that Sherlock Holmes stayed there after his battle with Moriarty at the Reichenbach.

It's not the Mazarin Stone (a 77-carat yellow diamond never owned by the Cardinal), but the spectacular Williamson Pink Star will be at auction at Sotheby's in Hong Kong on Oct 5 <www.tinyurl.com/vrhms2e5>. If you'd like to know more about that 77-carat yellow diamond, see the article "In Memoriam: Muzaffar ad-Din" in the Baker Street Journal (Sept. 1974).

"I keep a bull pup," Watson said (in "A Study n Scarlet"), and Sherlockian scholars have spilled a great deal of ink over the years trying to explain just what that bull pup was and what happened to it. James C. O'Leary has written about this for Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yerabyan> and concludes with an interesting answer to the question.

Johanna Draper Carlson's "Sherlock Holmes in Comics" web-site covers comics, graphic novels, and manga (Feb 22 #7), and she recently posted a 45-minute colorful video tour <www.tinyurl.com/34ezr3b8> of what she does and how her web-site works.

Richard A. Wein ("Silver Blaze") died on Sept. 9. He worked as a tax manager for a CPA film and was a dedicated Sherlockian. He was a member of the Three Garridebs for forty years, and active in many other societies. Richard co-hosted several runnings of The Silver Blaze at Belmont Park in the 1980s, acted in Sherlockian skits, and enjoyed wearing a shoulder sash on which he displayed his collection of Sherlockian pins. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.

Those who still use fountain pens and real ink will find that De Atramentis <www.de-atramentis.com/en> offers a wide variety of inks, including a Sherlock Holmes ink. Jennie Paton found an in-depth review of their Sherlock Holmes ink at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MJJxYZ95QY>.

Bill Seil has forwarded a Publishers Weekly report that the British publisher Angry Robot Books has launched a new crime-fiction imprint, Datura Books <www.publishersweekly.com/pw/newsbrief/index.html?record=3899>; it's an intriguing choice of a name <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datura> that may be familiar to Agatha Christie fans <www.tinyurl.com/24u3fx93>.

Sep 22 #5 Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II died on Sept. 8 at Balmoral. Her son, now King Charles III, performed as Sir Cummerbund Overspill in 1969 in "The Hound of the Overspills" (a short skit included in an annual revue produced by the Dryden Society of Trinity College, Cambridge University). Alas, there is no photograph of him in the role, but the script for the skit was published by Bill Rabe in the Commonplace Book, June 1969.

Daniel Craig's "Knives Out" (2019) was a delightful blend of mystery and comedy and excellent acting, with a few imaginative Canonical allusions, and "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" will debut on Netflix on Dec. 23. You can read a spoiler-free review at <www.tinyurl.com/57t6xsdb>.

"Timeshift: How to Be Sherlock Holmes: The Many Faces of a Master Detective" is a delightful television program that was broadcast by the BBC in 2014, and Jennie Paton has reported that it's now available at YouTube at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPsB2u_UeDg>.

Bonnie MacBird's *What Child Is This?* (New York: Collins Crime Club, 2022; 225 pp., $26.99), the fifth in her series of novels about Holmes and Watson, offers her readers a "Sherlock Holmes Christmas Adventure" that finds them involved in two cases, dark rather than festive, with attractive artwork by Frank Cho, and a chance to see Holmes in a mellower seasonal mood than in the familiar Canon.

SHERLOC is alive and well and working hard on Mars, and you can read about it at the Debrief web-site (Sept 15) <www.tinyurl.com/3hx5type>. There's even a nice Canonical quote (and they didn't believe they needed to tell their readers who said it).

Lloyd Fradkin presides over Lloyd's Beware the Blog: A Motion Picture and Television History Blog, and Sean Wright has noted a post about Jay Ward and Alex Anderson <www.tinyurl.com/muhzzr4n>; in 1947 they created Hamhock Jones, who fights his arch enemy, a Siamese twin; the problem is: one twin is good and the other the evil mastermind, but which is which? The post includes some of the artwork for the never-produced television animation. Some of their other creations did get made: Crusader Rabbit and Dudley Do-Right. You can also see a few minutes of Hamhock Jones, thanks to Burt Wolder, who found some footage at Vimeo <www.vimeo.com/155887788>.

Reported by Badre Bally: a new Blu-ray edition of "Sherlock Hound" (the delightful 1984 Japanese television series), remastered, with English subtitles and some added features, due at the end of November from Discotek <www.rightstufanime.com/Sherlock-Hound-Blu-ray>. Scott Monty's discussion of the series can be read on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mr2vyzwu>.

Igor Maslennikov died on Sept. 17. He began his long career with Leningrad Television, then moved to Lenfilms, became a director, and won plaudits for the highly-successful Russian television series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" (1979-1986). His memoirs *Beyker-strit na Petrogradskoy* [*Baker Street in St.* Petersburg] were published in 2007, but have not yet been translated into English.

Sep 22 #6 William Meikle's *Inspector Lestrade: The Black Temple and Other Stories* (Central Point: Weird House, 2022; 243 pp., $45.00) is a collection of twelve stories that involve the Inspector in a series of supernatural cases, with atmospheric illustrations by M. Wayne Miller; Lestrade is competent and conscientious.

J. R. Campbell's *Improbable Remains: The Bizarre and Unconventional Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (2022; 288 pp., $45.00) is a similar collection of eleven stories (six reprints and five new) featuring Holmes and Watson in well-told tales in the horror genre. Both books are limited editions, hard-bound and signed, and the publisher is at <www.weirdhousepress.com>; click on [our books] to see all their "Sherlock Holmes Adventures". Campbell was interviewed recently at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/3kf2bn6x>.

It can be interesting to read book reviews written by an expert (such as a review of *Moby Dick* written by a cetologist, or *The Lost World* by a paleontologist): Rene Schweitzer has recently reviewed three mysteries at the Trains web-site, one of them being Barry Roberts' *Sherlock Holmes and the Railway Maniac* (1994) <https://tinyurl.com/yk2hxzv6>.

One of the many animation characters to appear in Sherlockian costume was Roquefort ("the big cheese detective"), in "The Aristocats" (1970); a production cel from the film <www.tinyurl.com/yjw5czma> brought $129 (including the buyer's premium) at Heritage Auctions on Sept. 21.

The Marco Navas Studio has honored "A Study in Scarlet" with a new set of 1/32 figurines, hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted, showing the first meeting of Holmes and Watson <tinyurl.com/td828xyt>. This is the latest in their Sherlock Holmes Collection <tinyurl.com/4t92zvj2>; some of their earlier figurines are still available.

If you only watched the first Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film in theaters or on television, you missed the featurettes that were included on the DVD. You can watch them now, in a YouTube compilation spotted by Jennie Paton at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pA2TCDYxcY>, and perhaps see yourself, if you were at the birthday festivities in New York in 2009: the last featurette offers a few minutes of footage from some of the weekend events.

There's all sorts of interesting Sherlockian music to be found on the Internet, and Jennie Paton turned up the acapella group MayTree's version of the "Sherlock" theme music <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ii_XYcNeBa4>. If you would like to see what else they can do, they have their own YouTube channel at <www.youtube.com/channel/UC3mY2SKYhPjqImtBBXsR6_Q>.

The impressive International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition opens at the Minnesota History Center in St Paul on Oct. 20 <www.mnhs.org/historycenter>, and the Norwegian Explorers and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota will host a mini-conference on "The Timeless Sherlock Holmes" on Oct. 22 with some distinguished visiting and local speakers <www.tinyurl.com/29kxnum9>.

Sep 22 #7 David Warner's *Over My Dead Body* (Fremantle: Fremantle Press, 2022; 258 pp., $19.95), a thriller as well as a mystery, features Georgette Watson (his great-great-granddaughter), a cryogenicist who freelances for the New York police department and finds that her ancestor preserved Holmes' frozen body after the battle at the Reichenbach. So she thaws him out, and they quickly are involved in pursuing a vicious serial killer. The story's well told, with interesting supporting characters and some nice twists and turns.

The two-page manuscript for Conan Doyle's "The Argument from Necromancy" will be offered at Potter & Potter Auctions on Oct. 20, with an estimate of $6,000-$8,000 <www.tinyurl.com/bde8tsve>.

Olivia Rutigliano's series of "Little Essays on Sherlock Holmes" appears at the CrimeReads web-site, began with a close reading of what she called "one of the strangest Holmes stories" <www.tinyurl.com/bdfbe7zp> (that's "The Engineer's Thumb"), and continues with "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" <www.tinyurl.com/2sc6cumd>.

Paul Forster's one-man show "Conjuring the Dead" (about a séance that Houdini and Conan Doyle attended in Harrogate. N. Yorks.) premiered in July during the Durham Fringe Festival, and it will be presented at the Crown Hotel in Harrogate, on Oct. 28-30 <www.tinyurl.com/mv5euy5d>. There's an audio interview with Forster at <www.tinyurl.com/33h2k63r>.

Sherlockian's who enjoy maps will welcome Leslie Katz's new essay "'A Map Is Not the Territory': Sherlock Holmes' Use of Maps"; it's available online at <www.papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4217901>.

The Mini-Tonga Scion Society may be inactive, but people still are having fun creating Sherlockian miniatures: Jennie Paton has noted Betty Stein's miniature diorama at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4eAtCvDtDk>.

Peter Brooks' *Seduced by Story: The Use and Abuse of Narrative* (New York: New York Review Books, 2022; 173 pp., $17.95) is a scholarly sequel to his *Reading for the Plot: Design and Intention in Narrative* (1984); he begins with a quote from "Game of Thrones" television series ("There's nothing in the world more powerful than a good story. Nothing can stop it. No enemy can defeat it.") and cites the Canon as one of many examples of the power of narrative. He also explains how narrative can be (and is) used to deceive readers and listeners, and warns of the dangers involved in what he calls the storification of reality.

Kenneth W. Starr died on Sept. 13. He was an American lawyer and judge, best known for the *Communication from Kenneth W. Starr, Independent Counsel, Transmitting a Referral to the United States House of Representatives Filed in Conformity with the Requirements of Title 28, United States Code, Section 595(c);* the Starr Report led to the impeachment of President Clinton, and it stated (on p. 158) that "Ms. Lewinsky testified that that she gave the President a number of additional gifts," and that "these included a Sherlock Holmes game sometime after Christmas 1996."

Sep 22 #8 Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the BeeKay Theater in Tehachapi, Calif, through Oct. 8 <tctonstage.com>. It also has been scheduled at the Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, Md., Dec. 6-Jan. 1 <www.everymantheatre.org>.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is on at the Charleston Heights Arts Center in Las Vegas, Nev., through Oct. 9 <www.rainbowcompnay.org>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is being performed at the Long Beach Play-house in Long Beach, Calif., though Oct 22 <www.lbplayhouse.org>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is on at the Synchronicity Theatre in Atlanta, Ga., through Oct. 23 <www.synchrotheatre.org>. It is also scheduled at the Grace Gamm Theatre in Boulder, Colo., Feb. 2-25 <www.betc.org>.

Rick Robinson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem" is running at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland, Ore., through Nov. 6; their web-site's at <www.oregoncabaret.com>.

Tim Kelly's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at Encore! in Southern Plains, N.C., Oct. 21-30 <www.encorecenter.net>.

Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Topeka Civic Theatre in Topeka, Kans., Oct. 21-Nov. 5; their web-site's at <www.topekacivictheatre.com>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Victoria Hall Theatre in Harlow, Essex, Nov. 3-5; their web-site's at <www.harlowtheatrecompany.org.uk>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" is scheduled at the Marylebone Theatre in London, Nov. 18-Jan. 7 <www.marylebonetheatre.com>; that's conveniently a tenth of a mile from 221B Baker Street.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be performed at the Buck Creek Play-house in Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 2-18 <www.buckcreekplayers.com>.

Craig Sodaro's "Young Sherlock" will be performed at the Opelika Theatre Company in Opelika, Ala., Jan. 20-21 <www.opelikatheatrecompany.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Music Hall Mystery" is scheduled by the Rain or Shine Theatre Company at the Theatre on the Steps in Bridgnorth, Shrops., Feb. 3-4, and then on tour <www.rainorshine.co.uk>.

Michael Druce's "Sherlock Holmes and the Portal of Time" is scheduled at the Richey Suncoast Theatre in New Port Richey, Fla., Feb. 3-5; web-site at <www.richeysuncoasttheatre.com>.

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Oct 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians will gather in New York on Jan. 4-8 to honor Sherlock Holmes' 169th birthday, and planning for almost all of the traditional events is 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 is able to deal with. There also will be information available in mid-November at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>; his helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be found at <ihose.co/bsi2023tips> in December. It's also a good idea to sign up for News from the BSI to hear about Weekend news and when public registration opens for the festivities <www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27>.

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.

On location with Buster Keaton: John Bengtson ("the great detective of silent film locations," according to the N.Y. Times) has an interesting YouTube channel where he takes you on a tour of locations for Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr." (1924) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDQdOmnB_Gw&t=76s>. Kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

For all of the fans of professional hockey: Alex Ovechkin, left winger and captain of Washington Capitals, likes to dress in costume for Russian television commercials, and Jennie Paton has spotted him in Sherlockian costume at the RMNB [Russian Machine Never Breaks] web-site in a commercial for Russia's PSB bank <www.tinyurl.com/43b8bx6k>.

Barbara Peters and Patrick Millikin welcomed Les Klinger to the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Oct. 6 for a discussion of his *The New Annotated Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (just published by the Mysterious Press), and much more, and you can watch the goings-on at their YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVENiQKyUxo>.

Tim Johnson has reported a new 26-minute film from the Mayo Clinic ("Finding Substance X: The Team That Created Cortisone") that features Dr. Philip S. Hench, who shared a Nobel Prize for the results of his research, and with his wife Mary put together the magnificent collection that's a cornerstone of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota <www.tinyurl.com/3pusytk6>.

"Holmes and Yoyo" was a 1976 television series that was Sherlockian only for starring Richard Shull (a member of the Baker Street Irregulars) as Det. Sgt. Alexander Holmes, who is partnered with Det. Sgt. Gregory "Yoyo" Yoyonovich, who turns out to be an android. All these years later, Paul Thomas Miller offers a video of "Holmesian Yo-Yo Tricks" (recently noted by Jennie Paton).

Oct 22 #2 There were some interesting Sherlockiana and Doyleana offered at a sale of rare books and manuscripts in New York on Oct. 6, including four non-Sherlockian manuscripts; Randall Stock has posted detailed information (and images) at his "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" website <www.tinyurl.com/xjfyma2s>. The highlight of the sale, for Sherlockians, certainly, was the rare inscribed copy of the first Spencer Blackett edition of *The Sign of Four* (1890); the estimate was $20,000-$30,000 and it sold for $201,600 (including the buyer's premium).

The spectacular Williamson Pink Star <www.tinyurl.com/vrhms2e5> did very well at Sotheby's in Hong Kong on Oct. 5; the 11.15-carat diamond sold for $57,736,078 (including the buyer's premium) and set a new record for price per carat for any diamond or gemstone. It's also the second most valuable jewel or gemstone ever sold at auction.

In case you don't know about the most valuable jewel or gemstone ever sold at auction, it's the 59.60-carat Pink Star that was sold at Sotheby's in 2017 for $71.2 million <www.tinyurl.com/3vpj922y>; it weighed 132.50 carats uncut when it was mined by De Beers in 1999, and took two years to cut and polish.

Plan ahead: The Legion of Zoom will hold its second annual virtual conference (exploring "The Sitting Zoom at 221b Baker Street") at 2:00 pm (eastern) on Feb. 19, 2023; more information, and a registration button, can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/ycpru7mt>.

"Greetings, old friends," is a phrase that will please fans of "Star Trek: The Next Generation". It's a lovely preview of things to come, in a teaser <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wo2V1cSVj-w> for the ten-episode third season of "Star Trek: Picard" that will be streamed on Paramount+ beginning Feb. 16.

Spoiler alert: those fateful words are spoken by Daniel Davis, who's back as Moriarty, who was featured in two episodes of the original series: "Elementary, Dear Data" (1988) and "Ship in a Bottle" (1993). If you want to know (much) more about the series, and the episodes, Wikipedia has a helpful entry <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Trek:_The_Next_Generation>.

Steve Mason wonders why this (non-Sherlockian) sentence is unusual: "Dennis, Nell, Edna, Leon, Nedra, Anita, Rolf, Nora, Alice, Carol, Leo, Jane, Reed, Dena, Dale, Basil, Rae, Penny, Lana, Dave, Denny, Lena, Ida, Bernadette, Ben, Ray, Lila, Nina, Jo, Ira, Mara, Sara, Mario, Jan, Ina, Lily, Arne, Bette, Dan, Reba, Diane, Lynn, Ed, Eva, Dana, Lynne, Pearl, Isabel, Ada, Ned, Dee, Rena, Joel, Lora, Cecil, Aaron, Flora, Tina, Arden, Noel, and Ellen sinned."

Robert J. Harris' *The Devil's Blaze: Sherlock Holmes 1943* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2022; 276 pp., $26.00) is his second pastiche inspired by the Universal series of films that brought Holmes and Watson into the 1940s; they're in war-time Britain, investigating a series of grotesque murders, pursuing Professor Moriarty and hard at work preventing a German victory, The author's web-site is at <www.harris-authors.com>.

Oct 22 #3 Steve Mason wonders why this (non-Sherlockian) sentence is unusual (Oct 22 #2): it's a palindrome, provided by Steve in the October issue of The Bilge Pump, the monthly newsletter of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* (the Sherlockian society in Dallas/Fort Worth); the issue is conveniently available at their web-site <www.dfw-sherlock.org>. Actually, you can read all the issues of their newsletter, which was launched in June 2013, since they're archived at the web-site, along with much more of interest. There are (so far) a few other societies that archive their newsletters on-line; it's a wonderful way to make Sherlockian scholarship available to everyone.

At last! Jennie Paton has discovered that The Russian television series "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles" (with Maxim Matveev as Holmes) (Apr. 20 #6) will soon be available on DVDs. That's the good news. The bad news is that the DVDs will be in European PAL format, in Russian with subtitles only in French <www.tinyurl.com/3rk4c6nu>. Sherlock Holmes is in St. Petersburg, following the trail of Jack the Ripper (who has fled to Russia), and you can see a trailer at <www.start.ru/watch/sherlok-v-rossii>.

Japan Today had a colorful report on Oct. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/5n8e3frj> on the new Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at the British Antique Museum in Kamakura; the museum's web-site's at <www.bam-kamakura.com>.

The Blackeyed Theatre's tour of Nick Lane's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear" began in Britain on Sept. 14, but you won't need to travel to Britain to see it: it's being streamed on-line through Jan. 22, and is well worth watching <www.tinyurl.com/mry6sxz5>.

Daniel Stashower's *American Demon: Eliot Ness and the Hunt for America's Jack the Ripper* (New York: Minotaur, 2022; 342 pp., $29.99) is his latest non-fiction book, about the man who helped bring down Al Capone in Chicago and then found himself in Cleveland, attempting to solve a series of brutal murders; there are passing mentions of Sherlock Holmes (Dan knows this is important in persuading Sherlockians to read his books), and the book's great fun.

Why would you want to read a book? Jennie Paton found an amusing commentary on that question, on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2GERJ38Zvk>.

"Musings on Amusements in the Canon" is the title of the next conference scheduled by the Reichenbach Irregulars in Leukerbad, Switzerland, on June 1-4, 2023 <www.tinyurl.com/25zphw74>; planning for the conference continues, and visitors from far and near are welcome to participate in the festivities.

The Christopher Morley Knothole Association is hosting an illustrated lecture on one of his favorite topics: the Long Island Railroad. David Morrison will talk about steam trains, and the LIRR from its inception to the time when Morley rode the rails from the 1930s to the 1950s, at the Bryant Library in Roslyn, N.Y., on Nov. 3, at 6:30 pm. The meeting is free, and open to the public; more information about the event, and the Knothole Association, is available from Peter Cohn <apacohn@aol.com>.

Oct 22 #4 *Nights of Plague*, by Orhan Pamuk (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2022; 683 pp., $34.00), published in Turkey last year and now available in an English translation, is a novel disguised as a history of the fictional island of Mingheria, ruled by the Abdul Hamid II, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire; in 1901 the island is beset by virulent bubonic plague that ravishes the Christian Greeks and Muslim Turks who live there. The Sultan, in the novel and in fact an admirer of the Sherlock Holmes stories, sends an epidemiologist to the island, instructed to use Sherlockian deduction to solve a murder. Pamuk also notes that when Conan Doyle visited Turkey in 1907, he received the Order of the Mecidiye from Abdul Hamid, who was deposed in 1909. Not in the novel but widely reported: Hamid, on his last night as Sultan listened to a courtier read a translation of a Sherlock Holmes story in an issue of The Strand Magazine. Nick Hilden's interview with Pamuk, about the book and much more, was published in the Washington Post (Book World) on Oct. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/45hmksdk>.

There's a fine slide show of treasures in the cases at the splendid exhibition of "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" (at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., through Dec. 16) at the exhibition web-site <www.sherlockin221objects.org/the-lilly-library>.

*Canonical Cameos,* by the late Donald A. Redmond, is a collection of entertaining poems he wrote in 1976, now published for the first time in a 16-page pamphlet that was a souvenir prepared by his son Christopher Redmond for the recent "Jubilee@221B" conference in Toronto; copies are available from Chris for $5.00 postpaid via PayPal at <redmond2@execulink.com>.

There was a nice article by Steve Marsh about the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota at the Mpls.St.Paul magazine web-site on Oct. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/mr2efnj5>. Tim Johnson, librarian and curator of the collections, explained that "we still have archiving to do. I call it job security."

The Deadline web-site noted on Oct. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/4vbtvxz> that work has begun on a new mystery series for CBS-TV. Craig Sweeney, who worked on the "Elementary" series for five years, most of them as executive producer, will write the new series, which features Dr. Watson, back in practice a year after the death of Holmes at the hands of Moriarty. The new series isn't even "in development" yet, so don't hold your breath.

The web-site also reported on Oct. 6 <www.tinyurl.com/3b6nn4xy> on plans for a different Sherlockian project ("The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall"), which will consist of a three-book children's series written by Ali Standish and published by HarperCollins, and a television series produced by Imagine Kids+Family.

Don Hobbs has added language #113 to his data-base of translations of the Canon, thanks to Marsha Pollak who found a Khmer translation at the International Book Center in Phnom Penh in 2018 (Khmer is the official and national language of Cambodia). Don's massive (and colorfully-illustrated) data-base (which he calls "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes") is available online at <www.dfw-sherlock.org/galactic-sherlock-holmes.html>.

Oct 22 #5 "Boss of Sherlock Holmes Museum Continues 'Bitter' High Court Battle with His Little Brother Who Is Refusing to Move out of £1 million House Which Has Been His Home for 25 Years" was the headline on an article in the Daily Mail (on Oct. 17) <www.tinyurl.com/dkkr9hn3> about the seemingly perpetual lawyering among John Aidiniantz and members of his family, who have "racked up more than £2.5 million in costs and court orders" in a decade-long battle over profits from the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 221B Baker Street.

Angela Lansbury died on Oct. 11. She had a long and distinguished career acting on screen and stage and television, and became a household name as Jessica Fletcher on "Murder, She Wrote" which ran for 12 seasons on CBS-TV from 1984 to 1996. The pilot episode for the series ("The Murder of Sherlock Holmes") is discussed in detail at <www.vimeo.com/115878284>.

The Dramatic Publishing Co. <www.dramaticpublishing.com> offers a wide variety of scripts (16 in all) for regional and school productions of Sherlock Holmes plays.

Daniel Monaghan (who stars in the title role in Treefort Media's ten-episode audio mini-series "Moriarty: The Devil's Game") gave an interesting interview to the Sydney Morning Herald <www.tinyurl.com/3stmn52k> on Oct. 19, talking about the mini-series and much more. You can sample the mini-series <www.audible.com/pd/Moriarty-Podcast/B0B2DZBVRR>; Phil LaMarr stars as Sherlock Holmes.

Owen Thomas' "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Nigel Miles-Thomas as Holmes and Daniel Foley as Watson) continues its tour in Asia, and there's a nice review of the show at Ben's Theater in Jomtien, Thailand, published in the Pattaya Mail on Oct. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/ya2akckb>.

Original production cels from the classic animated film "Deduce, You Say!" (1956) aren't easy to find. Teresa Rettig reports that one is available from the Chuck Jones Gallery for $5,950 <www.tinyurl.com/ydsfn5r8>. They weren't nearly as expensive in 2009, when one sold for $3,585 at Heritage Auctions <www.tinyurl.com/ymspzksx>. Of course you can settle for limited edition cels that are made for collectors and cost much less

"A Doctor, a Deduction, and Death Averted" is an interesting essay on "how doctor and writer Simon Stephenson's love for Sherlock Holmes helped him save his mother's life", published at the CrimeReads web-site on Oct. 19 <www.crimereads.com/a-doctor-a-deduction-and-a-death-averted>. Stephenson explains that he was born in the same hospital as Sherlock Holmes, and has a good story to tell.

When in Whitstable (in Kent): you can visit the Whitstable Community Museum and Gallery, to see its exhibition honoring the late Peter Cushing, who lived there for 35 years <www.whitstablemuseum.org/exhibit/peter-cushing>. Howard Ostrom has found a video tour of the exhibition, when it opened in 2013 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEtpEftsj8k>; the exhibits include costumes he wore as Sherlock Holmes (Cushing played Holmes many times on screen and on television, and Conan Doyle once on television).

Oct 22 #6 "A Sherlockian Semiquincentennial" is the title of the 250th episode of "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" audio show that was launched in 2007 by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder; it's still going strong, and offers a search engine and a complete archive of 15 years of discussions and interviews that are well worth investigating.

And yes indeed, semiquincentennial is a real word, not recognized by the Word spell-checker but nevertheless in dictionaries. You can also celebrate sestercentennials and quarter millennials, and you can expect to see all of those words on July 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the 13 colonies that became the United States of America.

Leslie Katz has written many papers on Canonical topics, and all of them are conveniently available at <www.ssrn.com/author=1164057>; his latest is "Thrills and Chills and Postage and Wills: A Look at a Few Aspects of 'The Five Orange Pips'".

Andy Lane who has written eight novels in his "Young Sherlock" series and two in his "Lost World" series, and many more in non-Sherlockian and non-Doylean genres, was interviewed at length recently at the Time Scales website <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcxmJ_WmNtA>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the State Theater in Olympia, Wash., Jan. 27-Feb. 11; web-site at <www.harlequinproductions.org>. Also at Cheney Hall in Manchester, Conn., Feb. 3-19 <www.cheneyhall.org>; and the Amelia Community Theatre in Fernandina Beach, Fla., June 9 to 24 <www.ameliacommunitytheatre.org>; and the Totem Pole Playhouse in Fayetteville, Pa., June 16-July 2 <www.totempoleplayhouse.org>.

"William Gillette's Legacy Shines a Bit Brighter at Farmington Cemetery" was the headline on a story <www.tinyurl.com/49mhv35y> in the Middletown Press (Oct. 11) about the restoration of the headstones at the graves of William and Helen Gillette, with a photograph that includes the Gillettes (impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver).

Theatrics: Tad Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Red-Headed League" is scheduled at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Nov. 4-Dec. 4 <www.lyndhurst.org>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., Nov. 4 through Dec. 10 <www.genesiantheatre.com/au>.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Nov. 10-12; web-site at <www.mvnu.edu/events/fall-play-22?date=2022-11-10>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Nov 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nov 22 #4 A "wooden-framed slate filled with an apparent spirit communication channeled by Laura Pruden" <www.tinyurl.com/2sw8cvjk> was sold last month from the late Ken Klosterman's magic collection, and it brought $1,800 (including the buyer's premium). Conan Doyle considered her "one of the greatest mediums of the world," and you can watch a video tour of Klosterman's collection at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=SupYJ1anYnE>.

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

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

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

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

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

The September issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, which is now edited by Phillip Bergem, has Jim Hawkins' "Reminiscences of John Bennett Shaw", Gary Thaden's tribute to Nate the Great, and more news from and about the Collections; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson, #15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <johns976@umn.com>.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Dec 22 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

If you've seen the *Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects* catalog that accompanies the exhibition of material from Glen Miranker's collection, you will know what excellent work Hemlock Printers does. The company won nine trophies (including "best in show" for the catalog) and many honorable mentions at the Canadian Printers Awards this month. Details are available Hemlock's blog at <www.tinyurl.com/y6nk55ha>.

The exhibition's run at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., ended on Dec. 16, but it soon will be on view at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Feb. 13-May 5.

The documentary "House of the Gods" (Jul 22 #2) is now available at Amazon Prime UK <www.tinyurl.com/yjr7urmv>. It's the story of an expedition to Roraima (the Venezuelan tepui considered by many to have been the inspiration for "The Lost World") <www.tinyurl.com/4axattse>.

The Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* has now published six anthologies of pastiches written by members of the society from 2017 to 2022; they're available as PDF files at the society's web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/5n75p87t>, and (for those who would like to have actual books on their shelves) they now are available at Barnes & Noble <www.tinyurl.com/32ncure4>, priced at cost (the Crew receives no proceeds from the sales).

The Beacon Society's web-site offers "A Comprehensive Look at the Stories of the Sherlock Holmes Canon <www.tinyurl.com/mtcx56ae>; it's useful as a teaching/learning tool for anyone and everyone, newcomers and old hands, with text, artwork, readings of the stories by Patrick Horgan, questions, discussions, and much more.

Deadline reported on Nov. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/3bsw9x9w> on planning for a "The Boy Sherlock" television series based on the first book in the young-adult series written by Shane Peacock <www.shanepeacock.ca>; the six-book series began with *Eye of the Crow* (2007).

The six-episode series "Magpie Murders" (adapted by Anthony Horowitz from his novel) is well worth watching; it was broadcast on Britbox in the U.K. last February and on PBS-TV in the U.S. in October, and has many Sherlockian allusions in the plot and in the dialogue. Horowitz also frequently mentions Holmes and Conan Doyle in his post-episode comments, and you can enjoy looking for cryptic messages in the closing credits (watch for the red letters).

Agatha Christie's play "The Mousetrap" isn't Sherlockian, but it holds the record for the longest-running play in history: 70 years, with more than 28,000 performances for more than 10 million audience members, and accordIng to the Smithsonian web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mrymykwu> there are plans for a Broadway production in 2023. The play will continue its run at the St. Martin's Theatre in London, of course, but the mantelpiece clock, the only surviving piece of the original set, will be loaned from the London production for the Broadway run <www.mousetrapbroadway.com>.

Dec 22 #2 Every ten years the British magazine Sight and Sound conducts a poll to name the greatest films of all time, and this year 1,639 critics, programmers, curators, archivists, and academics submitted their top-ten ballots. Alan Rettig has noted that Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr." (1924) was tied for #54, and you can see all of the results of the poll at <www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/greatest-films-all-time>.

"Attention for Andaman" was the headline on a story at the GEO ExPro website on Nov. 29 <www.tinyurl.com/bdh8xr7v>, detailing increased interest in possible petroleum resources offshore from the Andaman Islands; an earlier article at the Lowy Institute web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ycx8whe9> explains additional reasons for increasing interest in the Andamans.

The Norwegian Explorers have just published Ruth Berman's "*Sherlock Holmes in Oz" and Others: The Sherlockian Writings of Ruth Berman*; the 110-page book is available for $11.00 postpaid from Phillip Bergem (3829 172nd Avenue SW, Andover, MN 55304), checks payable to Norwegian Explorers, please; or via PayPal, with payment to <norexpay@gmail.com>.

Nick Fisher died on Nov. 17. He was an accomplished writer for stage, radio, and television in Britain; his "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" was produced at the Salisbury Playhouse in 1991.

The new "30th anniversary edition" of Kim Newman's *Anno Dracula* (London: Titan Books, 2022; 519 pp., £17.99/$24.95) is signed by the author, with a new Introduction by Neil Gaiman and a new novella "Anno Dracula 1902: The Chances of Anything Coming from Mars" (a reprint from the *Reminiscences of Col. Sebastian Moran*). The book launched a splendid series of alternate-universe novels and stories with a multitude of Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) cross-overs. Newman was the distinguished speaker at the Baker Street Irregulars' birthday festivities in 2013, and he has a web-site at <www.johnnyalucard.com>.

The Mini-Tonga Scion Society has been inactive for many years, but there still are Sherlockians who collect or make miniatures. Jennie Paton notes an attractive (and expensive) 1/12-scale Sherlock Holmes Writing Desk on offer at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/5n8pbcws>.

Randall Stock has reported that the 27-page manuscript for Conan Doyle's short story "The Bully of Brocas Court" is advertised by a dealer in Austria for €75,000 <www.inlibris.com/item/bn60378>; it's also available at AbeBooks for $81,088.68. According to Randall Stock's page on the manuscript <www.tinyurl.com/2p868vrn> it was sold for $23,940 (including the buyer's premium) at Christie's in New York on Oct. 6; it's likely that the dealer will be prepared to bargain.

Sean Wright has noted that "The Perfect Crime" (an episode in the "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" television series that aired in 1957) is conveniently available on-line <www.dailymotion.com/video/x54o1iv>; the program stars Vincent Prince, who always is well worth watching, and there's mention of a great detective in London, and a delightfully Sherlockian introduction by Alfred Hitchcock.

Dec 22 #3 Greg Bear died on Nov. 19. He began his professional writing career as a teen-ager in 1967, and in 1970 was a co-founder of San Diego Comic-Con (there were 300 attendees at the first Con, and more than 135,000 at this year's gathering); he went on to write more than 50 science-fiction and fantasy books, including *Dinosaur Summer* (1998), a delightful alternate history: Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" was a factual account of the Challenger expedition, but in 1947 nobody cares about dinosaurs, the last dinosaur circus in America is closing and the National Geographic funds an expedition to return the surviving dinosaurs to Venezuela (Willis O'Brien and Ray Harryhausen come along for the fun and games, and of course the expedition is stranded on the plateau.

London isn't the only city with a pub called The Sherlock Holmes. There's also one in Bordeaux (France) <www.sherlockholmespub.fr>. And another in Melbourne (Australia) <www.thesherlockholmes.com.au>. And two more in Edmonton (Canada) <www.thesherlockspubs.ca>.

Jennie Paton has reported something new in the wide range of Sherlockian collectibles: a Sherlock Holmes Door Skateboard Deck ($81.99) available at <www.koelcase.com/products/sherlock-holmes-door-skateboard-decks>; in case you're not a skateboarder, a skateboard deck is the wooden platform where riders place their feet, and to which other parts are attached. And are there any Sherlockian skateboarders?

The Dark Regions Press has announced plans to publish *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of a Dozen Favourites* in two limited editions: the Detective Edition ($635.00) and the Library Edition ($215.00) will feature both fine binding and attractive artwork; details at <www.darkregions.com/sherlock>.

Peter Lovesey's *Reader, I Buried Them, and Other Stories* (New York: Soho Crime, 2022; 372 pp., $27.95) honors the award-winning author of an extensive list of novels and short stories; the collection includes the imaginative and nicely Sherlockian poem "A Monologue for Mystery Lovers" (first published in the Feb. 1999 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine), and more than a dozen excellent short stories (three of them new).

Spotted by Samantha Wolov in Anthony Marra's novel *Mercury Pictures Presents* (Hogarth, 2022): "Sherlock Holmes is the Galileo of the left-handed human heart, trading the telescope for a magnifying glass to discern the order within the nearer darkness.

Ross Davies reports that the 2023 Baker Street Almanac will be available early next year. The Almanac ("a modest capsule of a timeless past & future") is far more than a mere almanac, as you can see at its web-site at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/html>, where you can download free copies of the 2018-2021 almanac, purchase the 2022 almanac, and pre-order the 2023 almanac.

Jennie Paton has noted Greg Wagland's reading of Bret Hart's parody "The Stolen Cigar Case" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=irvfNrWkleo> at Magpie Audio's YouTube channel, where you'll find much more of interest: readings of the Canon, pastiches, and many of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories.

Dec 22 #4 For those not absolutely up to date in this computer age, AI is the abbreviation for Artificial Intelligence, and OpenAI is a company that has created a program called ChatGPT (GPT is an abbreviation for Generative Pre-trained Transformer), and there's a lot more about that in its Wikipedia entry <www.tinyurl.com/yjp9px2e>. Megan McArdle's Washington Post column (Dec. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/5cyusxja> was interesting, but not as interesting as what seems to be the first use of ChatGPT by Sherlockians: Mattias Boström and Jim Ballinger offer "Sherlock Holmes and Hedgehog Watson" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIshLHI-v4U>. It's easy to try out ChatGPT for yourself at <www.openai.com/blog/chatgpt>.

Do you own your books, or do your books own you? That's a question for just about everyone who has more than one bookshelf, and Karen Heller had an excellent article in the Washington Post (Dec. 19) that provides help for those pursuing an answer <www.tinyurl.com/yc5j8zu2>.

The Stradivarius that was offered at auction in June (May 22 #5) sold for $15.34 million, making it the world's second most expensive violin; Sherlock Holmes paid 55 shillings for his. Antonio Stradivari was described as "the ultimate craftsman" in an interesting article in the Smithsonian magazine (Nov./Dec. 2022) <www.tinyurl.com/2mf4udkk>.

Feel free to wish a Happy New Year to *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*. As of Jan. 1, 2023, all of the Sherlock Holmes stories now are in the public domain in the U.S. (where copyright protection ran for 95 years from the end of the year they were first published).

Fans of MSFK3 [Mystery Science Theater 3000] may not be familiar with the similar RiffTrax series, also created by and for the people who don't take films seriously <www.rifftax.com>; Matthew Elliott has noted that "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1962) is one of six Sherlock Holmes films you can purchase and download.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the classic silent film "Nosferatu" (inspired by Bram Stoker's *Dracula*); on-line celebrations have included an amusing Sherlockian video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uk2Yx9izr3s> created by Nick Hilligoss and kindly reported by Howard Ostrom.

"Letters from Watson" <www.lettersfromwatson.substack.com> is an on-line project (noted by Nea Dodson) that will launch in January and will involve e-mail versions of all the short stories; you can click on [some preliminary notes] and scroll down for information about the project's lapel pin and how to order it.

It was 50 years ago this month that geologist/astronaut Jack Schmitt was the first (and still the only) scientist to set foot on the Moon, and the December issue of the AAPG Explorer has a colorful illustrated article on "Apollo to Artemis: An Epic of 50 Years" <www.tinyurl.com/4ywzr8xv>. He also named Sherlock Crater in honor of Sherlock Holmes as a geologist, and had the longest-distance Sherlockian conversation ever, with Joe Allen at CAPCOM in Houston. There is a bit more about this in the March 1973 issue of the Baker Street Journal.

Dec 22 #5 Fake news is nothing new: there was plenty of it in the 18th century: <www.tinyurl.com/m7kssbwf>. And yes, there has been Sherlockian fake news: Scott Monty was the perpetrator, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog back in 2007 <www.tinyurl.com/yerb2fn4>. Quite a few people never bothered to click on the "Background info" link at the end of the piece, and the story quickly caught attention and circulation on the Internet <www.tinyurl.com/2p8zed4u>.

The Daily Mail reported on Dec. 19 on the will of Beryl Vertue, who died earlier this year (Feb 22 #5); Benedict Cumberbatch called her "Sherlock's godmother," and her bequests show that she had a wonderful sense of humor <www.tinyurl.com/42jtnpyc>.

Sherlock Holmes was an easy winner <www.youtube.com/watch?v=921D02qrxBQ> at Más Hipica (in Montevideo, Uruguay).

The Marco Navas Studio has released its second set of "A Study in Scarlet" 1/32-scale figurines (hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted) showing another scene from the story <www.tinyurl.com/3zan9bmx>.

It's time for another trivia question: can you name three actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and James Bond?

Many figure skaters have used a Sherlock Holmes theme, but now there's one who does something different: Tomoki Hiwatashi, who has gone to the dark side (so to speak) <www.tinyurl.com/y5vaw5df>. Jennie Paton has found him in action at YouTube, dancing to "Romani Holiday" (from "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows") <www.youtube.com/wtch?v=RuhzD19ksUQ>.

Michael Harrison was a knowledgeable and entertaining writer, well known for his many books about the world of Sherlock Holmes, but he wrote about many other things, including what he called "the golden age of whoredom" in *Fanfare of Strumpets* (1971). The book does have a passing mention of Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, but has much more to say about women such as Cora Pearl (whose entry at Wikipedia you're welcome to consult); an interesting letter from her (to a gentleman she did not know but who obviously wanted to know her) will be at auction on Jan. 12, with an estimate of €500-€600 <www.tinyurl.com/2kje4xt3>

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's excursion to India (Sep 22 #2) has been postponed. Information still is available at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/to-india-with-sherlock-holmes>; stay tuned for an announcement of new dates for "The Jewel in the Canon".

"Arsène Lupin contre Herlock Sholmes" was a four-act play written by Victor Darlay and Henri de Gorsse, based on the novel by Maurice Leblanc; it was first produced in Paris in 1910, and is now available as *Arsène Lupin vs. Sherlock Holmes: The Stage Play* (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2005; 248 pp., $20.95) adapted into English by Frank J. Morlock. It's grand to see what French theater was like all those years ago, and great fun to see Lupin and Holmes (and Holmes' son Frederick) in action. There's also a new Sherlockian playlet by Morlock as an afterword.

Dec 22 #6 Were you able to name three actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and James Bond? They are Roger Moore, David Niven, and Armand Kautzky. Armand Kautzky? He's a well-regarded Hungarian actor who played Sherlock Holmes in "The Curious Case of Sherlock Holmes and the Orphan of Europe" on Hungarian radio in 2021, and dubbed Bond's voice in Pierce Brosnan's films. Adrien Fray reports that he has agreed to be the new president of the Sherlock Holmes Club of Hungary. He also dubbed Ralph Fiennes' Professor Moriarty in "Holmes and Watson" (2018).

David Stuart Davies was interviewed recently about "Resurrecting Sherlock Holmes" and much more on the Dark Fantastic Network audio channel at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?=NDXN8KXYUIY>.

You can add one more name to the list of actors who have played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes. The BBC has recorded Neil Brand's 90-minute dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Mark Gatiss as Holmes and Sanjeev Bhaskar as Watson) for broadcast on BBC Radio 3 beginning Jan. 22; the performance also was filmed for future broadcast on BBC Four.

The Blackeyed Theatre's tour of Nick Lane's "The Valley of Fear" in Britain has been extended into 2023 <www.tinyurl.com/yphkntay>; the play also is being streamed on-line through Jan. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/mry6sxz5>, and is well worth watching.

A parody murder-mystery dinner-theater production of "The Big Dog of the Baskerton" is due at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, fN.J., Jan. 13-29 <www.papermill.org/purchase-tickets>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson" will be performed at the U.S. Bank Main Stage in Portland, Ore., Jan. 14-Feb. 12 <www.pcs.org>. It also will be performed at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., Mar. 8-Apr. 16 <www.bstreettheatre.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at Cheney Hall in Manchester, Conn., Feb. 3-19 <www.cheneyhall.org>, and at the Theatre in a Garden in Fish Creek, Mich., Sept. 6-Oct. 15 <www.peninsulaplayers.com>.

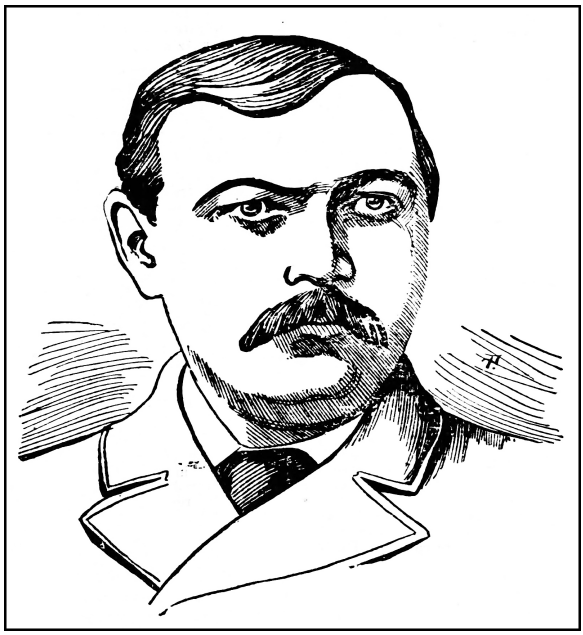
Richard James' "Sherlock Holmes and Mystery at Mallen Hall" will be performed at St. Peter's Church Hall in Netherton, West Midlands, Mar. 16-19 <www.dudleylittletheatre.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Strange Case of Miss Alice Faulkner" has been scheduled by the Long Beach Shakespeare Company (as a radio play) at the Helen Borgers Theatre in Long Beach, Calif., Mar. 24-Apr. 2; their web-site's at <www.lbshakespeare.org>.

Rick Robinson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem" will be performed at the Great American Melodrama Theatre in Oceano, Calif., Mar. 31-May 21 <www.americanmelodrama.com>.

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 Year 2022 in Sherlockian Comics

*Johanna Draper Carlson*[*]

From a purely personal perspective, the most important thing to happen in the world of Sherlockian comics in 2022 was the launch of my site, SherlockComics.com, on 2/21.

Dedicated to cataloguing English-language illustrated stories of Sherlock Holmes, the site aims to make recommendations for those interested in reading comics where the detective (or a related character) plays a significant part. There's a focus on book-format comics, including reprint collections, as those are easier to find and enjoy. (If you're curious about a work, try your local library! Many have graphic novels available.)

At the website, works are sorted into six categories:

Classic Stories — comic adaptations of Sherlock Holmes stories written by the original author, Arthur Conan Doyle

Canon Expansions — new stories featuring the classic version of the Sherlock Holmes character

Revamps & New Spins — different character takes or settings, often modernized

Related Characters — comics and manga with lead characters who aren't Sherlock Holmes or John Watson, but who are closely related

Back Issues —older comics most often found as single issues in the collectible market

Webcomics & Fan Work — online, webcomic, and fan versions of Sherlock Holmes in comics

As for comic book news last year, there were a few significant publications, most of which had media connections.

In the spring, Andrews McMeel released *Enola Holmes: The Graphic Novels Book One*. Serena Blasco adapted and illustrated the first three novels in Nancy Springer's series: *The Case of the Missing Marquess*, *The Case of the Left-Handed Lady*, and *The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets*. Originally published in French, these comics had previously been released in English in individual hardcovers from 2018-2020. This new paperback version had new translations and was more affordable, although it currently seems to be out of print.

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[*] Johanna Draper Carlson has been reviewing comics for over 25 years and running ComicsWorth Reading.com since 1999. Copyright 2023 Johanna Draper Carlson.

*Enola Holmes: The Graphic Novels Book Two* followed in the fall. It contained adaptations of *The Case of the Peculiar Pink Fan*, *The Case of the Cryptic Crinoline*, and *The Case of Baker Street Station* (renamed from *The Case of the Gypsy Goodbye*). It's a great read for girls' adventure, with more Sherlock included as the siblings come to better understand each other.

Another Enola comic, *Enola Holmes: Mycroft's Dangerous Game*, is the perfect choice for someone interested by the movie, as it's the official graphic novel sequel. That means it uses the likenesses of the actors — Millie Bobby Brown, Sam Claflin, etc. — and features some of the characters familiar from the film. It also does a great job capturing the feel and style of the movie, with plenty of action sequences and Enola fighting for her independence. It's written by Mickey George, with story by Nancy Springer (the character's creator) and art by Giorgia Sposito.

The only original comic story starring Sherlock Holmes this year came out in July, and it was a reprint of a four-issue miniseries originally published in 1990. The recent collection from Caliber Comics is a much easier way to read *The Case of the Missing Martian*, written by Doug Murray, illustrated by Topper Helmers. It's 1908, and London is attempting to recover from the War of the Worlds invasion (per H.G. Wells). Watson is sent to retrieve Holmes from his retirement when one of the Martian war machines goes missing from a British Museum display.

This kind of mashup is popular in comics. It's hard to write authentic Sherlock Holmes stories, with deductions and conversation and a cozy Baker Street, so combining the detective with some other Victorian concept, particularly a more visual one with plenty of action, is common. *The Missing Martian* also features a cameo by Professor Challenger and a melodramatic sub-plot where Watson is distracted by his wife Jacqueline's struggles.

Mid-year also brought the release of the newest entry in Van Ryder Games' Graphic Novel Adventures line, *Sherlock Holmes International* by CED. These comic-format books, translated from the French, are also games, where the reader can choose where to investigate or what questions to ask a suspect. Each choice leads to a different panel revealing new evidence.

*International*, the sixth in the series, adds Mycroft Holmes as a playable character. Mycroft has the additional power of forcing a reluctant witness to answer a question they would normally refuse. There are three cases here, one about a rich man's death on a steamship, one with a stolen gem in a French hotel, and one investigating a death at a colonel's remote plantation in Bombay, in keeping with the international title.

In the fall, the much-delayed *Sherlock: A Scandal in Belgravia Part Two* serialization began. The four-issue miniseries, translated from the Japanese,

concluded the manga adaptation of the BBC episode written by Steven Moffat. Artist Jay did a wonderful job with likenesses, completing the story in a way faithful to the show. Typical of the Titan Comics releases, there were multiple covers available for each issue. The collected edition is due in March 2023.

(Titan also announced in 2022 that their next Sherlockian comic release would be *Moriarty: Clockwork Empire*, a steampunk adventure that also features Jekyll and Hyde. It begins publishing in February 2023 but became available for preorder at the end of 2022.)

Near the end of the year, comic fans took note of Bonnie MacBird's latest Sherlock Holmes adventure, the Christmas tale *What Child Is This?* Although a prose tale, it featured illustrations by comic artist Frank Cho.

Let's end with the strangest Sherlockian comic release of 2022, *Immortal X-Men #8*. This comic, written by Kieron Gillen and illustrated by Michele Bandini, reveals that Sherlock Holmes, the great detective, was really the shape-changing Mystique all along. Destiny, another shape-shifter and her lover, was Irene Adler. As the point of the story is to explore some of the history of Mister Sinister, an X-Men villain, it's not recommended for those who aren't already interested in and aware of the mutant super-team, as it doesn't make a lot of sense otherwise, but some will find the idea amusing. Really, it's a callback to when Chris Claremont created Destiny in the 1980s and gave her character the "real name" of "Irene Adler."

# The Artifacts in the 221B Baker Street Sitting-Room

## Re-Creation in Reading, Pennsylvania

*Denny Dobry*[*]

*Editors' note*: This is the fourth installment — the others are in the 2019, 2020, and 2022 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 Stockbroker's Clerk** | | |
| The British Medical Journal. | 362 | STOC01 |
| Hall Pycroft's Top-hat. | 363 | STOC02 |
| Mason & Williams offer of employment to Pycroft. | 363 | STOC03 |

[*] Denny Dobry is "A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room" in the BSI. Copyright 2023 Denny Dobry.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Arthur Pinner's Calling Card. | 364 | STOC04 |
| Pycroft's note accepting employment at Franco-Midland Hardware. | 366 | STOC05 |
| Postcard of New Street, Birmingham, where Pycroft roomed. | 367 | STOC06 |
| Program from Day's Music Hall. | 368 | STOC07 |
| Receipt for Pycroft's Hotel stay. | Ded. | STOC08 |
| Newspaper Article of the Robbery Attempt. | 372 | STOC09 |
| Photo of Sergeant Tuson & Constable Pollock who foiled the Robbery Attempt. | Ded. | STOC10 |

April 1, 1899.] MEDICAL LEGISLATION IN THE ISLE OF MAN. [The Journal of the British Medical Association. 803

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1899.

Remittances to the Association for 1899 became due on January 1st, 1899. Members of Branches are requested to pay the same to their respective Secretaries. Members of the Association not belonging to Branches are requested to forward their remittances to the General Secretary, 429, Strand, London. Post-office orders should be made payable at the General Post Office, London.

**British Medical Journal.**

SATURDAY, APRIL 1st, 1899.

MEDICAL LEGISLATION IN THE ISLE OF MAN.

Medical legislation seems to be in the air just at present. Not only has the Parliamentary Bills Committee of this Association been engaged in the preparation of a draft Bill to amend the law, but a measure has been introduced into the Legislature of the Isle of Man, which has apparently been without any such statute hitherto.

This Bill is drawn somewhat closely upon the lines of the Medical Act of 1858, though in terms it is not actually identical. In brief, its salient points are: that a practitioner shall be entitled to practise so long as he continues to be upon the Register, but inasmuch as no penalty is attached to his practising when he is not thereby entitled, in this most little practical improvement is made upon the Act of 1858. The clauses inserted as to the holding of appointments, and the recovery of fees are similar, as is one and only clause which imposes a penalty is very like the similar clause in the Medical Act, 1858, as to "mischievous words," "wilfully and falsely" are omitted, it runs: "Any person who shall pretend to be, or take or use the name or title of a physician, doctor of medicine, or any name, title, or addition, or description implying that he is registered, or that he is recognised by law, shall, upon summary conviction, pay a sum not exceeding £20," and prosecutions are to be undertaken in the name of and by a chief constable, superintendent, or other of police.

Now, although the drafters of the Bill have to this extent profited by experience, and have avoided one of the most patent defects in the wording of the Medical Acts of 1858, it will be seen that they have in no respect improved them, and the prohibition is in essence still to the use of titles; for the clause which says that only are entitled to practise who are upon the would be difficult to enforce in the absence of a This, however, might be met by the addition of such words as "or who shall infringe any of the as of this Act" to the penalty clause.

Measure which has been sent up by the Parliamentary Committee of the Council of the Association would for the election of the representatives of licensing the General Medical Council by the medical graduates members of the body corporate, would establish a system, and would prohibit practice by persons not Register. With the first two of these subjects the Manxmen have no very direct concern, but it is a pity that no attempt is made to deal efficiently with the last and most important.

The Legislative [illegible] only-four persons, so that it [illegible] order intelligible the objects [illegible] member, while the Upper [illegible] the Bill has been read, consists of ten highly educated officials, who also would be readily amenable to reason, and we can hardly doubt that the Queen in Council (which practically means the Privy Council) would give the necessary assent to a really efficacious measure.

As we have before pointed out in these pages, the old law of England dealt with the question of practice; the the abandonment of this position and the substitution of defence of title was a new feature in the Act of 1858. This experiment has not proved a success, whilst the Apothecaries Act and certain other unrepealed statutes still keep alive the old principle.

It is absolutely necessary, in order to make any progress in the matter of medical legislation, that the profession should present a united front. Yet a correspondent tells us that in the Isle of Man there is much apathy and no unanimity—a state of things which we regret to have to say is by no means confined to that island. The status of the profession can never be satisfactory so long as the laity contemplates with indifference, almost with approval, the exercise of its functions by the illiterate quack, and holds that its painfully acquired knowledge and skill may be harmlessly dispensed with in the case of the pretender to innate genius.

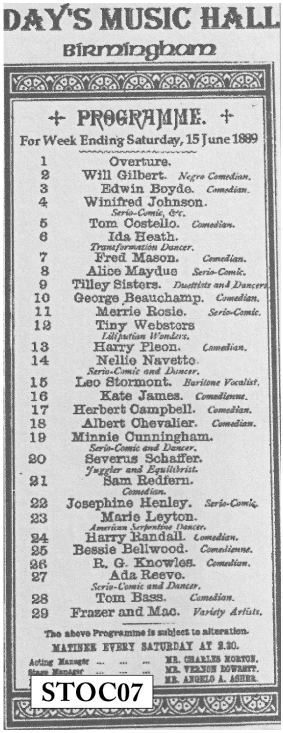
The medical men scattered all over the country have an immense power for good would they but exercise it. Not only are their votes and their power of influencing votes of importance—we are very far from wishing to see them turned into political propagandists—but the confidential and oftentimes closely friendly relations in which they stand to their patients bring them into touch with almost every one of those who influence and give effect to public opinion, so that they may be sure of a willing and appreciative hearing. Nor need they fear that their efforts will be misunderstood as actuated by selfish motives, for everything that works for the improvement of the medical profession works equally, nay much more, for the good of the public, and for the diminution of that needless suffering and worse than fruitless expenditure which is brought about by incompetence.

We would urge upon those who practise in the Isle of Man one and all to seize this opportunity of procuring a satisfactory enactment, and so become pioneers in the good work that it is hoped may be accomplished elsewhere ere long.

THE LOCAL INCIDENCE OF CANCER.

In another column appear two valuable contributions on this subject. The first of these is an interim report of the Committee appointed by the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch of the British Medical Association to investigate the influence of locality on the prevalence of malignant disease in some of the western counties of England; the second, by Dr. R. Lloyd Jones, deals with the topographical distribution of cancer in Cambridge,

**STOC01**



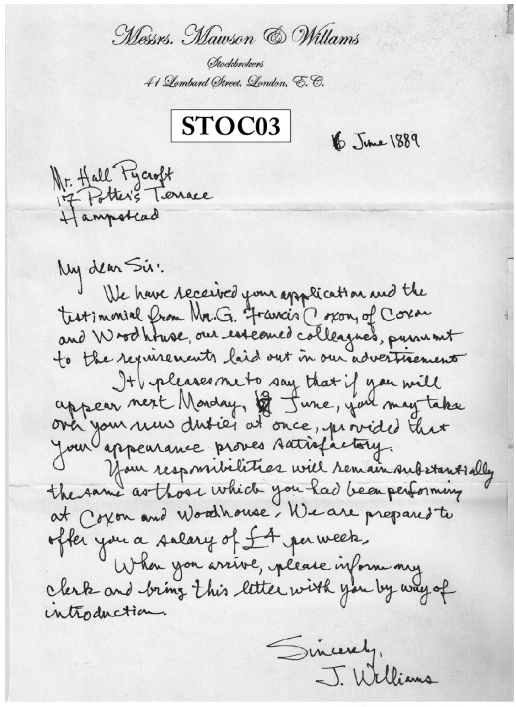
DAY'S MUSIC HALL
Birmingham

✣ PROGRAMME. ✣
For Week Ending Saturday, 15 June 1889

1 Overture.
2 Will Gilbert. *Negro Comedian.*
3 Edwin Boyde. *Comedian.*
4 Winifred Johnson. *Serio-Comic, &c.*
5 Tom Costello. *Comedian.*
6 Ida Heath. *Transformation Dancer.*
7 Fred Mason. *Comedian.*
8 Alice Maydue *Serio-Comic.*
9 Tilley Sisters. *Duettists and Dancers.*
10 George Beauchamp. *Comedian.*
11 Merrie Rosie. *Serio-Comic.*
12 Tiny Webstors *Lilliputian Wonders.*
13 Harry Pleon. *Comedian.*
14 Nellie Navetto. *Serio-Comic and Dancer.*
15 Leo Stormont. *Baritone Vocalist.*
16 Kate James. *Comedienne.*
17 Herbert Campbell. *Comedian.*
18 Albert Chevalier. *Comedian.*
19 Minnie Cunningham. *Serio-Comic and Dancer.*
20 Severus Schaffer. *Juggler and Equilibrist.*
21 Sam Redfern. *Comedian.*
22 Josephine Henley. *Serio-Comic.*
23 Marie Leyton. *American Serpentine Dancer.*
24 Harry Randall. *Comedian.*
25 Bessie Bellwood. *Comedienne.*
26 R. G. Knowles. *Comedian.*
27 Ada Reeve. *Serio-Comic and Dancer.*
28 Tom Bass. *Comedian.*
29 Frazer and Mac. *Variety Artists.*

The above Programme is subject to alteration.
MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY AT 2.30.
Acting Manager ... ... ... MR. CHARLES NORTON.
Stage Manager ... ... ... MR. VERNON ROWSBY.
MR. ANGELO A. ASHER.

**STOC07**



Messrs. Mawson & Williams
Stockbrokers
41 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

**STOC03**

16 June 1889

Mr. Hall Pycroft
17 Potter's Terrace
Hampstead

My dear Sir,

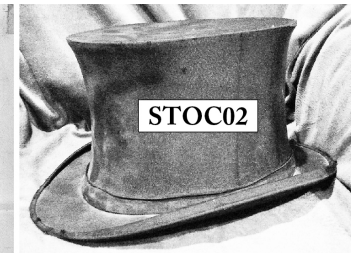
We have received your application and the testimonial from Mr. G. Francis Coxon of Coxon and Woodhouse, our esteemed colleagues, pursuant to the requirements laid out in our advertisement.

It pleases me to say that if you will appear next Monday, 18 June, you may take over your new duties at once, provided that your appearance proves satisfactory.

Your responsibilities will remain substantially the same as those which you had been performing at Coxon and Woodhouse. We are prepared to offer you a salary of £4 per week.

When you arrive, please inform my clerk and bring this letter with you by way of introduction.

Sincerely,
J. Williams



**STOC02**

**STOC04**

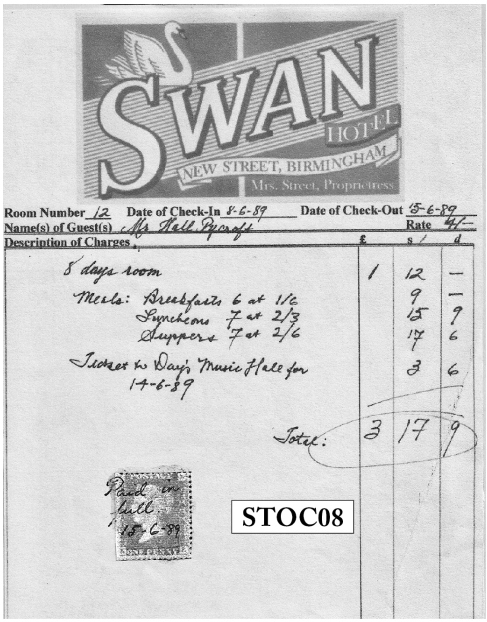
Arthur Pinner
Financial Agent

I am perfectly willing to act as business manager of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, Limited, at a minimum salary of £500

**STOC05** Hall Pycroft

**STOC06**

New Street, Birmingham



SWAN HOTEL
NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM
Mrs. Street, Proprietress

Room Number 12 Date of Check-In 8-6-89 Date of Check-Out 15-6-89
Name(s) of Guest(s) Mr Hall Pycroft Rate 4/-

| Description of Charges | £ | s | d |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 days room | 1 | 12 | — |
| Meals: Breakfasts 6 at 1/6 | | 9 | — |
| Luncheons 7 at 2/3 | | 15 | 9 |
| Suppers 7 at 2/6 | | 17 | 6 |
| Tickets to Day's Music Hall for 14-6-89 | | 3 | 6 |
| Total: | 3 | 17 | 9 |

Paid in full 15-6-89

STOC08

STOC10

STOC09

Evening Standard

*Early Edition* Saturday, June 15, 1889 LONDON

CRIME IN THE CITY

Murder at Mawson & William's

Gigantic Attempted Robbery

Capture of the Criminal

A desperate attempt at robbery, culminating in the death of one man and the capture of the criminal, occurred this afternoon in the City. For some time back Mawson & Williams, the famous financial house, have been the guardians of securities which amount in the aggregate to a sum of considerably over a million sterling, So conscious was the manager of the responsibility which devolved upon him in consequence of the great interests at stake that safes of the very latest construction have been employed, and a special watchman has been left day and night in the building. It appears that a new clerk named Hall Pycroft, who was engaged by the firm this week, has only recently emerged from a five years' spell of penal servitude. By some means, which are not yet clear, he succeeded in wheedling under a false name, this official position in the office, which he utilized in order to obtain mouldings of various locks, and a thorough knowledge of the position of the strongroom and safe.

It is customary at Mawson's for the clerks to leave at midday on Saturday. Sergeant Tuson, of the city police, was somewhat surprised, therefore to see a gentleman with a carpet-bag come down the steps at twenty minutes past one. His suspicions being aroused, the sergeant followed the man, and with the aid of Constable Pollack succeed, after a most desperate resistance, in arresting him. It was at once clear that a daring and gigantic robbery had been committed. Nearly a hundred thousand pounds' worth of American railway bonds, with a large amount of scrip in mines and other companies, was discovered in the bag. On Examining the premises the body of the unfortunate watchman was found doubled up and thrust into the largest of the safes, where it would not have been discovered until Monday morning had it not been for the prompt action of Sergeant Tuson. The man's skull had been shattered by a blow from a poker, Pollock found behind. There could be no doubt that he had left obtained entrance by pretending that he had left something behind him, murdered the unfortunate watchman, rifled the large safe, and then made off with his booty. His brother, who usually works with him, has disappeared in this job as far as can at present be ascertained, although the police are making energetic inquiries as to his whereabouts.

PARLIAMENT TO-DAY

For the Sake of the Trust
The Baker Street Irregulars Trust™ Newsletter
Spring 2022 Issue No. 23

# The Adventure of the Cardboard Box(es)

By Bob Coghill, BSI

*Editor's Note: Although he never found severed ears in salt, Coghill's adventures through cardboard boxes on behalf of the Trust has been fun.*

"I want to be an archivist when I grow up." Said no one. Ever. Occasionally, someone says librarian. Writer. Bookseller. But archivist? Just no. And yet, there are archivists. Plenty of them. Thousands. And there are likely thousands of journeys to the archives. Each of them is a story. This is mine. Or part of it, in any case.

*Bob Coghill with the late Mike Whelan.*

I got my degree in archival studies in order to be the summer archivist for The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, and once my degree was in hand, I mentioned it to Mike Whelan and said, "if there is anything I can do?" There was. Unbeknownst to me, Mike had been developing the BSI Trust and figuring out what to do with our historic material.

In July of 2005, what should have been a simple (I thought) shipment of six boxes of materials were sent to me by George McCormack ("Hosmer Angel"). The hiccough came because of timing and a border crossing. My shipping address was my office, and as it was in a school, it was closed for the summer. The shipment was held at Fort Erie, and I drove down to explain what was in the boxes and brought them home to Toronto.



*These issues of *For the Sake of the Trust* are copyright 2023 by the Baker Street Irregulars Trust.

But that wasn't the first accession. Accession number one was Edgar W. Smith's BSI certificate and some other papers, the first of several generous donations from Glen Miranker ("The Origin of Tree Worship"), who served as the first chairman of the BSI Trust.

Working at the Toronto Reference Library gave me opportunities to both give material to the library that wasn't needed for the BSI Trust and to give to the Trust items (duplicates) from the library's collections. We have had good relationships with both the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at Toronto and with the Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minnesota.

*Sorting through the donated treasures.*

Retiring put a bit of a twist into how we dealt with the BSI Trust. Instead of working at home once a week or so, I took a month off from my retirement travels in 2014 and 2015 to spend the month of April preparing materials before the annual Trust Meeting in Cambridge.

Once my travels were over, I settled in the Vancouver area. That presented a challenge in getting the material to me, but with the help of Dan Polvere ("Holloway and Steele") who lives in Washington state and had both an accommodating wife and room for temporary storage, we established a way for material to be mailed or couriered to Dan. He then took the boxes to our storage unit near Blaine, Washington, about half-way between Bellingham and Vancouver. It was a plan that worked well. I would pick up a couple of boxes in Blaine, bring them home and then, it was like Christmas, opening boxes of treasures, never quite knowing what to expect.

Once I opened the boxes, I organized the material (if it needed it) and made assessments of what was BSI-related. Some Conan Doyle, non-BSI material went to Toronto, and some Sherlock, non-BSI material went to Minnesota. Some things were returned or became part of the materials we

were able to sell. (Thanks, Denny Dobry ("A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room").)

Once I had a box completed, I would send it to the Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington.

**Construction and COVID**

The whole process had to slow down while the Lilly was under renovations, and then, everything stopped when the border between Canada and the USA was closed due to COVID. Then, because of changes in how material was to be processed and because of the problems at the border, we had to make some changes. As soon as the border was open, I made a trip to our storage unit, packed up some of our smaller packages and then drove everything to UPS where it all got shipped to Bloomington, Indiana.

On November 10, 2021, all the BSI Trust materials left their temporary storage and were sent to their final home at the Lilly into the care and keeping of Erika Dowell, Associate Director and Curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts for the Lilly Library, and her staff. My part of the project had come to an end.

Since the first boxes arrived in 2005, until the last boxes left in 2021, it has been an honour to work with such a fine team of knowledgeable, congenial, and flexible people along the way. It has been quite a ride at times, and not without its bumps, but I appreciate the help and support of the members of the Trust.

Being connected to the BSI and to the BSI Trust has been quite an honour over the years. Now that the archive has moved to the Lilly Library, our "stuff" continues to be cared for and is in good hands for the future.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Trust.

## From the Chair

By Thomas A. Horrocks, BSI

The BSI Trust has been quite busy during the first half of 2022.

First, the BSI Trust board welcomed two new members, Mary Ann Bradley ("Mary Morstan"), and Denny Dobry ("A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room"), both of whom bring years of dedicated service to the Trust and its activities.

They are joining the board at a time when the Trust has launched several new initiatives. These new initiatives will be partly funded by an infusion of funds resulting from the sale of the generous donation to the Trust of Sherlockian publications by Constantine Rossakis ("St. Bartholomew's Hospital"). The Trust sold the books through Heritage Auctions in December 2021, which generated more than $38,000. Costa deserves our profound gratitude!

I am also pleased to announce that September 17, 2022, is the date of the second annual BSI Trust Lecture, which will be presented by our newsletter editor, Ray Betzner ("The Agony Column"), who will speak on "'221B': The Story of a Sherlockian Sonnet." The lecture will be presented via Zoom at 2 p.m. Eastern. While the lecture is free, registration will be required. Sign up for News from the BSI email alerts to get notified when registration opens, or watch the BSI Trust website at <www.bsitrust.org> for further details. The video of last year's lecture, featuring Roberta Pearson, will soon appear on the BSI Trust website.

In August 2021, the Lilly Library, home of the BSI Archive, reopened after an extensive renovation. As a result, our Archive is now again available to researchers. Anyone wishing to consult the Archive should contact Erika Dowell, Associate Director, at <edowell@indiana.edu>.

Now that the Lilly is open for business, the Trust is developing programs to promote and support the use of the BSI Archive. Among them is a Research Fellowship program which will fund up to two research fellows with grants up to $2,500. Applications for the first year are due by September 15, 2022 and the program will commence in 2023. The BSI Trust website has more information on the Research Fellowships. In

addition, the Trust will support a student intern at the Lilly to assist library staff in digitizing and cataloging BSI Archival material and performing public service activities relating to the Archive.

**Your Donations Make it Possible**

The BSI Trust is able to carry out activities like these due to the financial support it receives from BSI members and others. Gifts-in-kind in the form of books, periodicals and ephemera also generate much needed funding through the tireless salesmanship of Denny Dobry. Contact Denny if you have items to donate for resale. He can be reached at <dendobry@ptd.net>.

In addition, the BSI Trust always seeks donations of material for the BSI Archive. The Trust recently revised its Collection Guidelines for archival material to aid those who are considering donating their correspondence and other material relating to the BSI. Anyone considering a donation of material should consult the BSI Trust website for the revised Collection Guidelines (PDF) and contact me at:
<TrustChair@bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

In the Fall 2021 issue of the newsletter, I mentioned that the BSI Trust instituted new procedures for sending materials to the BSI Archive. After confirming with me that a donation adheres to the revised Collection Guidelines, material will now be sent directly to the Lilly Library. In the Fall newsletter I expressed my profound gratitude to Bob Coghill and Dan Polvere for their years of service to the BSI Trust. Bob's 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. We are pleased to publish Bob's article on his experience working with BSI archival material.

I wish everyone a pleasant and restful summer and hope to see many of you at Bear Mountain in July.

## From the Editor

By Ray Betzner, BSI

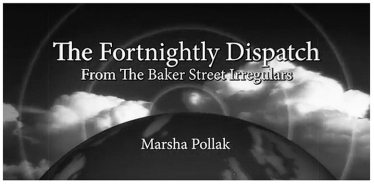
It's a pleasure to be the new editor of the BSI Trust newsletter. I want to thank my predecessor, Michael Pollak ("The Blue Carbuncle"), for his dedication to this newsletter and to Randall Stock ("South African Securities") for his help in getting me up and running.

It's truly an honor to be working on behalf of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust. The Trust and our archive at the Lilly are unique in the Sherlockian space. While there are great reserves of Sherlockian and Doylean treasures at many locations around the world, only the Trust focuses its efforts on the activities of the Baker Street Irregulars.

And it's important to note that the archive is not just the lumber-room for dusty old papers. The archive is a living, growing repository for the Irregulars and their lives. It's a place to explore, conduct research and to both marvel at what has happened in the past, and consider what could be possible in the future of our shared passion.

As you can see in this issue, COVID has not slowed Trust activities. Here are a few quick notes we hope you'll enjoy about recent activities:

Trust board member Marsha Pollak was the guest of Steven Doyle on his weekly video blog, *The Fortnightly Dispatch*, in May. Among other topics, Marsha discussed the BSI's Oral History Project and her plans for the future. You can watch the entire Marsha Pollak interview on YouTube.

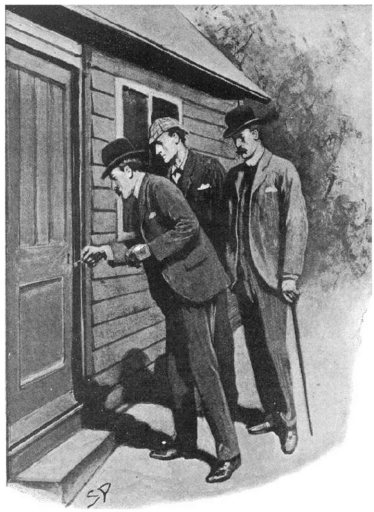



Marsha's dedication to the Oral History Project was cited by Michael Kean in January when he awarded her the prized Two-Shilling Award. The Trust plans to make more of these interviews available in coming years. One of my favorites so far is the interview with Mickey Fromkin and the late Susan Rice. Their shared joy in the Sherlockian experience—and one another—is a delight. I encourage you to take a little time and enjoy their interview at the BSI Trust website.

*Mickey Fromkin and Susan Rice*

Speaking of the *Fortnightly Dispatch*, it occurs to me that many members of the BSI Trust Board, past and present, have been guests of Steve's show. Glen Miranker, Bob Katz, Tamar Zeffren, Les Klinger, Peter Blau, Steve Rothman, and Michael Kean have talked about their experiences as both Sherlockians and Irregulars.

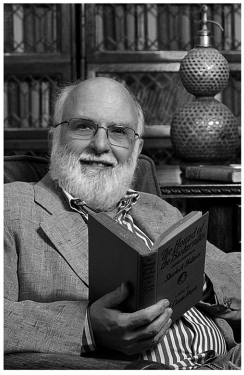
Until next time, stay well.



For the Sake of the Trust
The Baker Street Irregulars Trust™ Newsletter
Fall 2022 Issue No. 24

# 'Holmes in 221 Objects'

*Exhibit at Lilly Library through mid-December*



After a blockbuster debut in New York City in January, one of the most talked about displays of Sherlockian material ever assembled is available to view at the home of the Baker Street Irregulars Archive for a very short time. The second venue for the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" is the Lilly Library on the Indiana University, Bloomington, campus. Convenient for those in the American Midwest, the exhibit is open to visitors through December 16.

"Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" draws upon the Sherlock Holmes collection of Baker Street Irregular Glen S. Miranker ("*The Origin of Tree Worship*"). Miranker a founding member of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust, put together a display that is rich in bibliographic rarities, manuscripts, books, correspondence, and artwork, all with intriguing stories to tell beyond their significance as literary and cultural landmarks.

After a highly publicized run at the Grolier Club in New York which drew raves from The New York Times, CBS Sunday Morning, The Wall Street Journal and other media outlets, the opportunity to have the exhibit at the Lilly Library was a natural move.

"The exhibit has been open since August 1, and has drawn great interest from those who love Sherlock Holmes as well as the general public," said Erika Dowell, associate director and curator of Modern Books and Manuscripts at the Lilly Library. "We're thrilled the exhibit is here."

Bringing Miranker's exhibit to the Lilly Library seemed like a natural move, since the library already has a substantial and growing collection of BSI materials through the Trust. Lilly Library Director Joel Silver and Dowell were aware of the exhibit before it opened at the Grolier and had

worked with Miranker while putting together the Lilly's BSI exhibit in 2019. Working with Miranker to bring the exhibit west to the Lilly was a natural move.

Dowell noted that in the last few years, the Lilly Library's exhibition space has been renovated and updated to better accommodate exhibits like "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects."

"Our new exhibition space is made for a major exhibition just like this. We are so excited to be able to show off the new space and this impressive exhibit at the same time," she said.

Highlights of the exhibit include rare leaves from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*; four short story manuscripts; original artwork by the British and American illustrators who created Sherlock's iconic look for readers; a wealth of holograph letters from Arthur Conan Doyle to friends, colleagues, and well-wishers.

There is also a fascinating cache of pirated editions; the only known salesman's dummy for the US *Hound*; and an "idea book" of Conan Doyle's private musings in which he (in)famously penned "Killed Holmes" on his calendar for December 1893.

Also on view is a handwritten speech—rarely displayed—with the author's explanation for killing Holmes: "I have been much blamed for doing that gentleman to death but I hold that it was not murder but justifiable homicide in self defence [*sic*] since if I had not killed him he would certainly have killed me."

Though they are not on current display, the Lilly Library collections include Sherlockian rarities such as a copy of *Beeton's Christmas Annual* for 1887 and original illustrations of Sherlock Holmes stories made by G. K. Chesterton.

In addition to the materials from the Baker Street Irregular Trust, the Lilly Library is home to one of the nation's foremost collections of rare books, manuscripts, and literary and historic artifacts. Its holdings include more than 450,000 rare books, 8.5 million manuscripts, the world's largest collection of mechanical puzzles, and 150,000 pieces of sheet music.

## From the Chair

By Thomas A. Horrocks, BSI

In the previous newsletter I mentioned various new initiatives the BSI Trust is pursuing to promote the BSI Archives. These initiatives and others that are to come, however, will have little impact if few people know about them.

It is imperative for the Trust to do all it can to effectively communicate what it is doing, why and how it is doing it, and ways people can assist its mission, either through donations of materials to the archives or financial contributions. The development of a communications strategy is in order, and I am pleased to announce that Ray Betzner ("The Agony Column"), Trust board member and editor of this newsletter, has volunteered to lead the effort to shape this strategy.

Ray will be working with several small focus groups to review the current communications process and develop a strategy that will assist the BSI Trust in ensuring that the BSI Archive is useful for Irregulars, Sherlockians, and researchers in general. I want to thank all of those who volunteered their time to serve on a focus group. If you would like to be part of our communications effort, contact Ray directly at <rlbetzner@mac.com>.

As we approach the end of the year, I hope you will consider supporting the BSI Archive with a financial donation or a gift-in-kind of materials for sale to support the various activities of the BSI Trust. Past financial support has enabled the Trust to purchase collection materials for the

archives and to promote the archives through such programs as a Research Fellowship program, a student internship at the Lilly Library to assist library staff in digitizing and cataloging of BSI archival material, and the production of a BSI Trust brochure.

Gifts-in-kind in the form of books, periodicals and ephemera also generate much needed funding through the tireless salesmanship of Denny Dobry ("A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room"). Contact Denny at if you have items to donate for resale. He can be reached at <dendobry@ptd.net>.

Finally, the BSI Trust always seeks donations of material for the BSI Archive. The Trust recently revised its Collection Guidelines for archival material to aid those who are considering donating their correspondence and other material relating to the BSI. Anyone considering a donation of material should consult the BSI Trust website for the revised Collection Guidelines at <http://files.bsitrust.org/pdf/docs/bsi-archive-want-list.pdf>, and contact Tom Horrocks at <TrustChair@bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

On September 17, 2022 the BSI Trust sponsored its second annual BSI Trust Lecture, which featured Ray Betzner, who spoke on "'221B': The Story of a Sherlockian Sonnet." This excellent lecture, presented via Zoom for an audience of 200+ will be available soon via video, as will last year's lecture by Roberta Pearson. Please watch the BSI Trust website at <www.bsitrust.org> for further details.

I extend my warmest holiday wishes to all of our readers.

## From the Editor

By Ray Betzner, BSI

For the friends of Sherlock Holmes, this is the best time of year. The winter holidays hold the promise of family gatherings and the warmth of familiar and friendly traditions.

One tradition that I eagerly anticipate is participating in the plethora of activities surrounding the Baker Street Irregulars Dinner in early January. There is literally something for everyone during the Sherlockian festivities that take place in New York, from small, intimate gatherings of a few friends to large luncheons and dinners with full programs of Holmes-

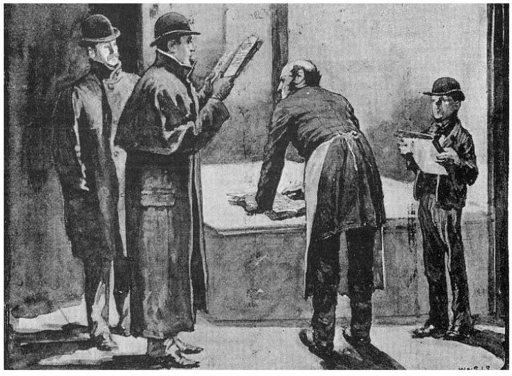
related activities. You can find a full list of BSI and related events at the BSI website page about Plans for the 2023 BSI Weekend.

Speaking for myself, I love all the various versions of the weekend's festivities. Over the decades, I have taken as much delight in the quick-drink-at-the-bar conversations as I have at the grand events with formal programs. And by the end of my New York sojourn, I've always made new friends, affirmed old associations and found renewed pleasure in the whimsical nature of our shared fascination.

Chronicling these gatherings is an important part of the Archive and I hope you've taken the chance to look at our photos and records of previous events. There is a lot to learn here, from the impressive lists of guests to the ongoing evolution of the BSI from a largely New York-based society to its current role as an international home for Holmes fans of all backgrounds. You can learn a lot more by visiting the BSI Trust website and roaming its BSI Dinner photo archives.

A final note: As you plan your holiday gift buying, don't forget about the many Holmes/Conan Doyle books available at Denny Dobry's Basement Bookshop of Wonder. You can find out if he has that special book you've been hunting for yourself or a Sherlockian friend just by emailing Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. All proceeds from these sales go to support the work of the Trust.

And with that, let me offer you Compliments of the Season from everyone at the Trust.



## 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>.

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# Sherlockian Recipes

*Terry Hunt*[*]

We are fortunate to have submissions from two dedicated Sherlockian cooks for this year's food section. Wendy Heyman-Marsaw, author of *Memoirs from Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen*, gives a traditional recipe for Toad in the Hole, while Peggy MacFarlane, who introduced readers to Colonel Warburton's Madness in last year's *Baker Street Almanac*, offers her take on French mendiants. This feature spotlights two recipes each year, one from Holmes's era and one a new creation inspired by the Canon. If you have a dish you'd like considered, get in touch with me at sherlockstuff113@gmail.com.

## Toad in the Hole

*Wendy Heyman-Marsaw*[*]

Described by Mrs. Isabella Beeton in her 1859-61 *Book of Household Management* as "a homely, but savoury dish," Toad in the Hole has been served since the late 18th century. Its first known appearance in print was in 1787 in a book by Francis Grouse called *A Provincial Glossary*. It was simply and accurately described as a meat in a crust.

The curious name of Toad in the Hole has been the subject of much conjecture. It may be due to the manner in which frogs and toads burrow in the soil awaiting their prey. The name is also traced to a story about a golfer in Northumberland who sank his ball in the cup only to have it pushed out by a toad. (More recently, it has been adopted as the name of a British pub game.) But Toad in the Hole holds a place among other colourfully-named, classic and popular British dishes such as Bubble and Squeak, Spotted Dick, and Angels on Horseback. To the uninitiated these names may seem unappealing at first, but they are part of Britain's cultural heritage, and are much beloved.

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[*] 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. Copyright 2023 Harrison Hunt.

[*] Wendy Heyman-Marsaw is a Master Bootmaker of the Bootmakers of Toronto and recipient of their Emerald Tie-Pin for her work on the 2022 conference Jubilee @ 221B. She is the author of *Memoirs from Mrs. Hudson's Kitchen* and has contributed essays to various books. Her blog, recipes and book reviews may be found at www.mrshudsonskitchen.com. Copyright 2023 Wendy Heyman-Marsaw (including the photographs).

Toad in the Hole gained wide popularity during the Industrial Revolution. Wages were meager, and working-class women — much as they do today — looked for inexpensive but filling family meals that could be prepared promptly and with a modicum of fuss. Toad in the Hole could be quickly made with leftover meat or inexpensive items such as lamb kidneys or other offal. The British banger (or sausage) became the most popular protein used in the dish, but in WWII the sausage was replaced by Spam. Batter-based recipes were popular at the time, and Toad in the Hole was the most commonly used because of its easily adaptable versions and readily available ingredients that were often staples in the larder. It was also enjoyed in the British colonies.

Traditionally, Toad in the Hole is accompanied by an onion gravy. Mrs. Hudson no doubt made it from leftover beef or lamb joints (roasts) when they were not placed upon the sideboard in the room of her famous tenants (as noted by Dr. John H. Watson in "The Beryl Coronet"). One can also imagine her kind-heartedly preparing it in large amounts for the poor young Baker Street Irregulars when they were summoned by Sherlock Holmes.

Mrs. Beeton's 1861 recipe called for 1½ pounds of rump steak, 1 sheep's kidney, and salt and pepper to taste. The batter required 3 eggs, 1 pint of milk, 4 tablespoons of flour and ½ saltspoon of salt. "Note that the remains of cold beef, rather underdone, may be substituted for the steak, and when well liked, the smallest possible quantity of minced onions or shallot may be used. It should be cooked in a tolerably brisk oven for 1½ hours."

*Ingredients (serves 2)*

1¼ cups all-purpose flour
¼ teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided, plus more for garnish
4 large eggs
1¼ cups whole milk
1½ tablespoons canola oil
4 British Banger-style pork sausages (approximately 4 ounces each)

*Step 1*

Preheat oven to 435 F. Whisk together salt, flour and ½ teaspoon of pepper in a large mixing bowl. Whisk together eggs and milk in a medium bowl until very well combined and eggs are no longer separated. Gradually whisk about half of the milk mixture into the flour mixture until smooth and free of lumps. Continue slowly whisking in the remaining milk mixture until thoroughly combined and smooth and free of lumps. Set aside.

*Step 2*

Heat oil in a 12-inch cast-iron skillet (if you don't have one use a 12-inch stainless steel oven-proof uncoated skillet) over medium high heat. Add sausages; cook, turning once, until brown on 2 sides, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer sausages to a plate. Remove skillet from heat but do not wipe clean. Working quickly, pour prepared batter into the skillet. Arrange sausages down center line of the batter spaced 1 to 2 inches apart. Bake until the batter is puffed, lightly browned, and crisp around the edges, 25 to 30 minutes.

*Step 3, Shallot Gravy*

*Ingredients*

2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon pepper
Kosher salt to taste
2 tablespoons of heavy whipping cream
¾ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
4 large shallots thinly sliced (about 1 cup)
1½ cups of beef stock (I used Campbell's)

*Gravy Directions*

While the Toad in the Hole is cooking, melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat until foamy. Add shallots; cook, stirring occasionally until translucent, about 4 minutes. Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons flour; cook, stirring constantly, 1 minute, 30 seconds. Slowly stir in stock, scraping up any flour stuck to the bottom of skillet. Bring to a simmer over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Continue simmering, stirring often, until thickened, 3 to 4 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in cream, Worcestershire and pepper, and add salt to taste. Keep gravy warm over low heat, stirring occasionally, until ready to serve.

*Step 4*

Remove skillet from oven; garnish Toad in the Hole with additional pepper. Serve immediately with warm gravy.

# The Amateur Mendiant Society (sic): a Recipe and Membership Opportunity

*Peggy MacFarlane*[*]

A "mendicant," as referenced by Watson when he speaks of the unpublished case of the Amateur Mendicant Society, is an elegant term for a beggar. Neville St. Clair from "The Man With the Twisted Lip" is the Canon's most famous mendicant. A "mendiant," on the other hand, is a delicious chocolate disk topped with nuts and dried fruit. What a difference a consonant makes! Well, in English, anyway — in French the words are identical and etymologically linked. However, let's step over that interesting rabbit hole and press on with our recipe.

Mendiants are confections beloved by professional chocolatiers, and you will often see them demanding high prices in chocolate shops. At the same time, they are actually one of the simplest forms of the chocolatier's art and can be easily tackled by an amateur as well. The possible variations on the basic theme of "things on a disk of chocolate" is truly endless and allows for a great deal of personal creativity. The recipe provided here has a Do It Yourself twist in that it merely provides guidelines that will allow every reader to create their own original variation on chocolate mendiants. This template recipe makes a dozen or so, depending on how big you choose to form them:

*Ingredients*

300 grams chocolate of any type: Dark, milk, white, ruby, etc. Fine chocolate gives the best results, but regular chocolate chips will work, too.

Small handfuls of toppings such as dried fruit, nuts, small candies, cookie pieces, etc. At least two types of topping is indicated.

*Method*

Set out your toppings, slicing larger pieces to size as needed. Line a baking sheet or board with parchment paper, or just set a piece on your working table. Prepare a piping bag if using. Chop the chocolate evenly and finely. Finer pieces help the tempering process, so even chocolate chips could stand a little chopping.

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[*] Peggy MacFarlane (AKA Peggy Perdue, AKA Violet Westbury, BSI) has completed five out of six courses needed for a professional chocolatier's certificate. Her project for the final Chocolate Showpieces course may or may not involve Holmes and Moriarty battling it out over a molten chocolate Reichenbach Falls.

Temper the chocolate. There are many ways to do this. A professional chocolatier might use a marble slab and move melted chocolate over it in big, sweeping gestures. However, this is a recipe for amateur mendiants, so we're going to use a microwave oven. Put the chopped chocolate in a plastic bowl and microwave in 30 seconds intervals until about 2/3 of the chocolate is melted. Don't allow all the pieces to melt. You may want to give it a quick stir between intervals to check progress. Chocolate melts below body temperature so don't be surprised if the bowl doesn't even feel warm. Take it out of the microwave and stir quickly until the rest of the chocolate pieces melt.

Working fairly quickly before it starts to set, either put the chocolate in a piping bag and pipe out neat circles, or just spoon little irregular disks of chocolate onto the parchment paper. Now add your toppings. You can adorn the disks as much you like, but the usual method is to leave some chocolate exposed. The mendiants should be well set in an hour or so. If the chocolate got a little too hot during the tempering, they might stay a little soft; in this case, you can put them in the refrigerator for a few minutes to help them set completely.

Put the mendiants on a pretty serving plate and enjoy. Your family and friends will beg for more!

*Membership*

Now, to sweeten the deal, if you do decide to design mendiants of your own, you will be eligible for membership in the brand new, quasi-canonical organization "The Amateur Mendiant Society (sic)." (Note that (sic) is added to the society's name in the tradition of the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) in order to make a clear distinction between this and the venerable Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit.

Just send a photo of your results to me at eflpeggy@gmail.com, and you will receive in return a pdf certificate attesting to your membership. Please let me know what topping and chocolate combinations you come up with I look forward to hearing about your creations!

# Third Pillar from the Left

## Music and Sherlock Holmes in 2022

*Jens Byskov Jensen*[*]

At the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars, on Friday, January 8, 2022, tradition was preserved with the time-honored musical interlude by pianist Henry Boote. This year's performance included Boote's "The Gold Queen's Revenge," rewriting the lyrics for Paul Simon's classic "Bridge over Troubled Water," thus evoking the events of "The Problem of Thor Bridge."

If you enjoy reading about Sherlock Holmes and music, perhaps the new book "Referring to My Notes — Music and the Sherlockian Canon" edited by Karen Wilson and Alexander Katz might be of interest to you. Surprisingly, few books have been published on this subject. The predecessor, "Sherlock Holmes and Music" by Guy Warrack, dates back to 1947.

Guy Warrack studied music at Magdalen College, Oxford, and continued his studies at the Royal College of Music in London, where his professors included composers Gustav Holst and Vaughan Williams, and conductor Adrian Boult. Warrack later taught on the faculty of the Royal College of Music and conducted several well-known orchestras in both symphonic and operatic productions.

The new book from Wilson and Katz offers many varied points of view and so covers the field well. Several chapters investigate Sherlock Holmes himself and his taste in music, as well as his own abilities on the violin and as a composer. Other chapters involve opera, early music, popular music, film music, stage productions, Irene Adler, and Arthur Conan Doyle. Also, a chapter is devoted to musicians among the Baker Street Irregulars of the past (members of the BSI, meeting in New York — not Holmes' original street urchins!).

Joshua T. Harvey is the 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. This year, at the 221bCon and the DePaul Pop Culture conventions, he gave presentations on character-specific music in adaptations, with a focus on Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Irene Adler. Urged to share his views, Harvey writes: "In modern media adapta-

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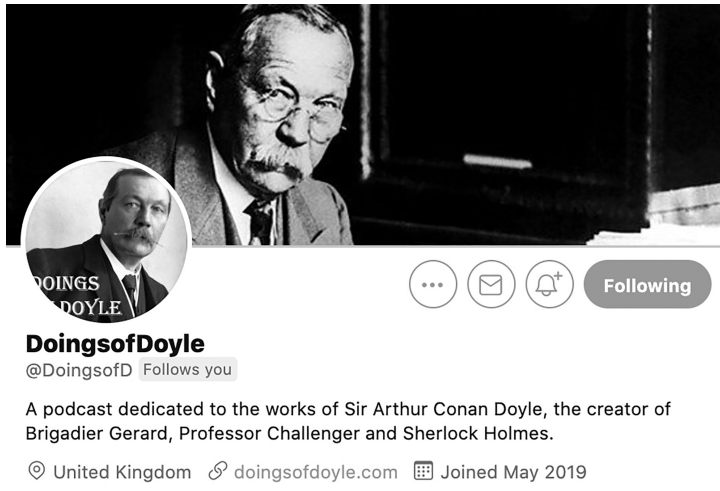
[*] Jens Byskov Jensen is a violinist by profession and "The Blanched Soldier" in the BSI.

tions, the relationship between Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes is usually represented by romantic themes of unrequited love (Granada / BBC). Holmes and Watson are often represented by lullaby waltzes, which infuse a sense of homely atmosphere at 221B (Granada, Russian Lenfilm)." Holmes' deductive reasoning is often portrayed with music which sounds like machinery. Harvey is also a composer in his own right, releasing music on YouTube for Sherlockian societies.

210 years ago, on October 9 or 10, 1813, the Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi was born in Le Roncole, a village near Parma. Verdi's music is not directly mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes stories, although Irene Adler was certainly familiar with it from her performances at the Teatro alla Scala in Milano, which is forever closely associated with Verdi. Indeed, the premiers of his two last operas, "Othello" (1887) and "Falstaff" (1893), were at La Scala. Holmes' dramatic nature certainly suggests that he would enjoy Verdi's operas.

In 1913, for the centenary of Verdi's birth, it was entrusted to the architect Lamberto Cusani by the city of Parma to construct a monument at the square in front of the railway station. The result was an immense granite and bronze monument by sculptor Ettore Ximenes and his assistants, which was inaugurated on February 22, 1920. The centerpiece of the monument was a giant altar with scenes from the composer's life as well as his operas, surrounded by an immense structure including 28 statues. On May 13, 1944, the monument was damaged by bombing from the allied forces of World War II. Fortunately, the large central altar was spared and then relocated to the Piazza della Pace next to the Palazza della Pilotta, where it remains today. I was recently in Parma and it is an impressive artwork to see. Strolling down Strada della Repubblica, I happened to look through the window of a tobacconist's, and on a jar for storing pipe tobacco I saw a familiar profile with letters in gold spelling: "Sherlock Holmes."

Thank you for your attention. If you believe something should be mentioned in this column next year, please feel free to send your thoughts to jens@byskovjensen.com.




# Doings of Doyle in 2022

*Mark Jones*[*]

*Doings of Doyle* is a podcast dedicated to the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The show is hosted by Paul M. Chapman and myself from the UK and started broadcasting in November 2019. In each episode, Paul and I 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, Amazon Alexa and YouTube (www.youtube.com/@doingsofdoyle).

- Episode 22 — 'The Lord of Chateau Noir' (1894) — The hunter becomes the hunted in this tale set during the Franco-Prussian War (January 30, 2022).
- Episode 23 — 'The Great Keinplatz Experiment' (1885) — An early example of a body swap story in which a serious professor and his carefree student swap places (February 28, 2022).

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[*] Mark Jones is the co-founder and co-host of *Doings of Doyle*, and of The Literary Agents. Copyright 2023 Mark Jones. Photo by and copyright Teresa J. Dudley.

Paul M. Chapman (left) and Mark Jones. Photo by Teresa J. Dudley.

- Episode 24 — The ACD Society, with Ross Davies — Mark and Paul talk to Ross about Conan Doyle's place in literature and the ambitions for this new society dedicated to his life and work (March 31, 2022).
- Episode 25 — 'The Adventure of the Creeping Man' (1923) — Holmes and Watson investigate the strange behaviour of Professor Presbury in a story that touches on the gothic and occult and the 1920s fascination with bizarre supposedly life-prolonging treatments (April 30, 2022).
- Episode 26 — 'The Maracot Deep' (1929) — Conan Doyle's last novel takes a bombastic scientist and his companions to the bottom of the ocean where they encounter a lost civilisation (May 30, 2022).
- Episode 27 — Conan Doyle and Professor Challenger, with Stephen J. Carver — A discussion of Conan Doyle's great scientist hero, his origins and connections to Conan Doyle's life, interests and personality (June 29, 2022).
- Episode 28 — 'A Foreign Office Romance' (1894) — A French spy makes a bold move to avert disaster in this tale of the Napoleonic Wars that partly inspired the Brigadier Gerard stories (July 31, 2022).

- Episode 29 — 'The Mystery of Sasassa Valley' (1879) — Diamond hunters in South Africa encounter a mysterious demon in Conan Doyle's earliest published work (August 28, 2022).
- Episode 30 — Conan Doyle: Memories and Adventures, with Douglas Kerr — The podcast is joined by Douglas, General Editor of the Edinburgh Works of Arthur Conan Doyle, to discuss the author's fascinating, if carefully stage-managed autobiography (September 29, 2022).
- Episode 31 — 'The Curse of Eve' (1894) — A pensive father spends a restless night awaiting the birth of his first born in a story that originally shocked Conan Doyle's contemporaries, persuading him to change the ending (October 28, 2022).
- Episode 32 — 'The Croxley Master' (1899) — Conan Doyle's classic tale about a doctor's apprentice who takes part in a prize-fight to earn his university fees (November 29, 2022).
- Episode 33 — Conan Doyle and Crime Fiction, with Martin Edwards — Paul and Mark are joined by Martin, President of the Detection Club, to talk about Conan Doyle's lasting influence on crime fiction authors (December 21, 2022).

# SHERLOCK HOLMES AND LAW 2022

*Ira Brad Matetsky*[*]

**January 1, 2022:** Four Sherlock Holmes stories that had their first U.S. publication in *Liberty* magazine in 1926 — "The Three Gables," "The Blanched Soldier," "The Lion's Mane," and "The Retired Colourman" — enter the public domain in the United States as their 95-year terms of copyright protection expire. So does Arthur Conan Doyle's novel *The Land of Mist*. (See also December 31 entry.)

**January 28, 2022:** A federal judge allows the FBI to withhold a category of documents from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act because releasing these confidential law-enforcement documents "would risk circumvention of the law." Citing *The Sign of Four*, Judge Trevor McFadden observes that "[a] criminal can double his efforts to avoid detection once he knows the methods that law enforcement uses to catch wrongdoers. That is true even for historical methods. Not only do the law enforcement procedures of today build on what came before, but certain investigations might require a return to earlier investigative techniques. After all, Sherlock Holmes began using fingerprint evidence 130 years ago, and that technique remains critical to law enforcement today."[1]

**March 9, 2022:** The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky denies a criminal defendant's motion to suppress evidence. Judge Benjamin Beaton observes that "[r]egardless of whether Sherlock Holmes would've investigated in the same way, [the police officer's] line of inquiry was certainly reasonable. And our Fourth Amendment caselaw wasn't written according to the standards of Arthur Conan Doyle; it requires only 'a particularized and objective basis' for suspicion, which typically 'does not present a particularly high bar.'"[2]

**July 12, 2022:** A man alleged to be an American fugitive appears in a Scottish court, where he improbably claims to be the victim of mistaken identity, even though his fingerprints match those of the wanted man. After the court

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[*] Ira Brad Matetsky is a lawyer and is "The Final Problem" in the Baker Street Irregulars.

[1] *Callimachi v. Federal Bureau of Investigation*, No. 20-cv-1362 (TNM), 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16212, at *30-31 (D.D.C. Jan. 28, 2022).

[2] *United States v. Dunn*, No. 3:21-CR-45-BJB, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 41610, at *10 (W.D. Ky. Mar. 9, 2022) (citation omitted).

hearing, a reporter asks the man if "the game was up." He replies, "the game has just started. The game is afoot."[3]

**August 12, 2022:** Judge William J. Nardini of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit is faced with an issue of insurance contract interpretation in which "[n]either party's interpretation is entirely satisfactory." The insured's reading of the contract language is "strained," but the insurer's reading "directly contradicts the language" of the contract. Judge Nardini recognizes that "'when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." He therefore rejects the insurer's interpretation, which is impossible, in favor of the insured's, which is merely improbable.[4]

**September 6, 2022:** The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit addresses a complex case involving a U.S. company accused of providing financial support to a group that murdered thousands of people abroad. While evaluating the sufficiency of plaintiffs' evidence, the court (in an opinion written by Judge Adalberto Jordan), observes that plaintiffs in this type of case may have to rely on circumstantial evidence of wrongdoing, which is entitled to the same consideration as direct evidence. In a cautionary footnote, however, the court adds that "[c]ircumstantial evidence, as Sherlock Holmes once put it, 'is a very tricky thing. … It may seem to point straight to one thing, but if you shift your own point of view a little, you may find it pointing in an equally uncompromising manner to something entirely different."[5]

**October 17, 2022:** The *Daily Mail* reports on recent developments in the ongoing litigation among members of the Aidiniantz family, owners of the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London. The paper reports that "[t]he family have appeared in court more than 100 times over the Sherlock Holmes Museum near Marylebone Station arguing about money and property," racking up more than £2.5 million in legal fees thus far with no end in sight.[6]

**December 7, 2022:** The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania becomes the latest court to cite "Silver Blaze." Judge Thomas

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[3] "Nicholas Rossi: Alleged US Fugitive Quotes Sherlock Holmes at Court," https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-62135027 (July 12, 2022).

[4] *ExxonMobil Oil Corp. v. TIG Ins. Co.*, 44 F.4th 163, 175 (2d Cir. 2022) (quoting *The Sign of Four*), *cert. dismissed*, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 5458 (Dec. 21, 2022).

[5] *Carrizosa v. Chiquita Brands International*, No. 19-13926, 2022 U.S. App. 25005, at *89-90 & n.6 (11th Cir. Sept. 6, 2022) (quoting "The Boscombe Valley Mystery").

[6] "Boss of Sherlock Holmes Museum Continues 'Bitter' High Court Battle with His Little Brother," *Daily Mail*, https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11323143/Boss-Sherlock-Holmes-Museum-continues-bitter-High-Court-battle-little-brother.html (Oct. 17, 2022).

P. Agresti observes that "[a]nother piece of evidence as to reasonableness … may be likened to the famous clue of the 'dog that didn't bark in the night.'"[7] Indeed, an oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court the very same day reflects that "the dog that didn't bark" analogy is now familiar enough to be invoked without explaining it. Arguing in opposition to the "independent state legislatures" theory, attorney Neil Katyal asserts that the *Federalist Papers* and other authorities from that period never mentioned this theory. Thus, "lastly and most importantly, the dog never barked."[8]

**December 31, 2022:** At midnight, the U.S. copyrights on the last two Sherlock Holmes stories, "The Veiled Lodger" and "Shoscombe Old Place," expire. As of January 1, 2023, the entire Canon is in the public domain in the United States.

[7] *Honeywell Int'l. Inc. v. North Am. Refractories Co. Personal Injury Settlement Trust*, Adv. No. 21-2097-TPA, 2022 Bankr. LEXIS 3468, at *52-53 & n.15 (Bankr. W.D. Pa. Dec. 7, 2022).

[8] Tr. of Oral Argument at 73, *Moore v. Harper*, No. 21-1271 (argued Dec. 7, 2022). "Silver Blaze" citations also continue to appear in the law reviews. *See also* Eli Nahmani, "The Irrelevance of the Northwest Ordinance Example to the Debate About Originalism and the Nondelegation Doctrine," 2022 U. Ill. L. Rev. Online 17, 19-20 & n.21 (Feb. 25, 2022) (also evaluating a "dog that didn't bark" argument).

# The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk

*by A. Conan Doyle*

*A New Annotated Edition*

*The cover of The Sunday [San Francisco] Call Magazine, November 5, 1905.*
By Stanley Armstrong

# The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk

## A New Annotated Edition

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[18] Pamela J. Sullivan is interested in the Holmes-Watson relationship, collects Doylean/Sherlockian and Golden Age detective fiction, and enjoys adding to her replica 221B sitting room.

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Shortly after my marriage[21] I had bought a connection[22] in the Paddington district.[23] Old Mr. Farquhar, from whom I purchased it, had at one time an excellent general practice; but his age, and an affliction of the nature of St. Vitus's Dance[24] from which he suffered, had very much thinned it. The public not unnaturally goes on the principle that he who would heal others must himself be whole, and looks askance at the curative powers of the man whose own case is beyond the reach of his drugs. Thus as my predecessor weakened his practice declined, until when I purchased it from him it had sunk from twelve hundred to little more than three hundred a year.[25] I had confidence, however, in my own youth[26] and energy, and was convinced that in a very few years the concern would be as flourishing as ever.[27]

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[21] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 69, n. 2; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 474, n. 2; WBG, p. 2:153, n. 1.

[22] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 69, n. 3; LSK, 1 New Ann., pp. 474-75, n. 3; OSH: Memoirs, p. 287.

[23] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, pp. 69-70, n. 4; WBG, pp. 2:153-54, n. 2.

[24] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 70, n. 5; LSK, 1 New Ann., pp. 475-76, n. 4; OSH: Memoirs, p. 287.

[25] OSH: Memoirs, p. 287; WBG, p. 2:154, n. 3. GREG DARAK: In *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, Leslie Klinger wonders how the Watson who needed to share rooms in Baker Street could have afforded to purchase a practice, even one in decline, given that the average price then was one to one-and-a-half times the practice's annual income. One possibility is that among the people Holmes helped in his early cases, there were bankers along the lines of Alexander Holder of BERY, or Mr. Merryweather of REDH, who in gratitude for his help would have been glad to give Dr. Watson a loan on favorable terms. If no banker was able or willing, another wealthy client could have shown his gratitude by being co-signer with him on a loan.

JONATHAN TIEMANN: How much would about £300 a year be worth today? Inflation over such long periods is tricky to estimate because the basket of goods and services that people generally consume has changed so much, but based on figures from the UK Office for National Statistics, £300 in 1889 had about the same purchasing power as £45,000, or about $55,000, today. So Watson's £300 was rather meagre for an established professional, but his ambition to restore the practice to £1200 a year seems a credible target. We learn later that Hall Pycroft jumped at the offer of £500 a year — much more than a young clerk at a relatively early stage of his career could expect to earn. Mawson's had offered Pycroft £200.

[26] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 70, n. 6; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 476, n. 5; WBG, p. 2:154, n. 4.

[27] JAMES C. O'LEARY: What kind of medical man was Farquhar? In "Some Marginalia on Doctors in the Canon" (James C. O'Leary with research by Harrison Hunt), *The Watsonian*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Fall 2013), the author wrote, "James Mortimer (HOUN), Mr. Kent (BLAN), Sir Leslie Oakshott (ILLU) and the old, white-haired country surgeon of North Walsham (DANC) all had Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS). Unless titled, these doctors were simply called 'Mister.' This tradition harkens back to the Middle Ages, when surgery was not the practice of a university-taught physician but that of a barber, a workman who learned his trade by apprenticeship. Interestingly, old Mr. Farquhar — not 'Dr.' (STOC) — from whom Watson bought his post-marriage practice, appears not to have been a surgeon. With 'an affliction of the nature of St Vitus's dance' one would expect a surgeon's practice not to decline but abruptly cease. Why didn't Watson call him doctor? As Watson calls him 'old,' he may have been in practice forty or fifty years. Could he have been an old-fashioned apothecary? Today an apothecary might be thought of as someone who only dispenses medicine. That they did, but they also treated patients, offered medical advice, preformed midwifery and some surgery; many of the same duties, in fact, as a GP. Like the barber-

For three months after taking over the practice I was kept very closely at work, and saw little of my friend Sherlock Holmes, for I was too busy to visit Baker Street,[28] and he seldom went anywhere himself save upon professional business. I was surprised, therefore, when, one morning in June,[29] as I sat reading the *British Medical Journal*[30] after breakfast,[31] I heard a ring at the

surgeons before the turn of the eighteenth century, apothecaries learned their trade in apprenticeship. After the Apothecaries Act of 1815, Farquhar would have completed training for his Licentiateship of the Society of Apothecaries (LSA). Apothecary or no, he had been successful for many years; his steps were worn three inches deeper than his neighbor's."

[28] SCOTT MONTY: How busy was Watson, really? His practice was at about one-third its capacity; were he as engaged with its revitalization as he would have us believe, would he have had time to lounge around after breakfast in his slippers and enjoy some reading? One would imagine a truly industrious and entrepreneurial Watson engaged with patients, doing rounds, or partaking in other work that would have actually kept him busy. Perhaps Watson applied some literary license to his medical license?

[29] WBG, p. 2:154, n. 5. BRAD KEEFAUVER: When it comes to "The Stockbroker's Clerk," Sherlockian chronologists across the board agree upon one thing: It occurred on a Saturday in June. And while there are two main camps fighting over whether it was June 1, 1889 or June 15, 1889, not everyone agrees on the year of this story and with good reason — two good reasons, in fact. First, Watson doesn't give us the year in his text; and second, and much more problematic, Watson does write that the case was "shortly after my marriage," and Watson's marriage is the muddiest chronology swamp of his seventeen years working with Sherlock Holmes. While an 1889 date agrees with the "It was the summer of '89, not long after my marriage" presented in "Engineer's Thumb," a look at "A Scandal in Bohemia" says otherwise. In that case, "marriage had drifted us away from each other" by March 20, 1888. And let's not get into Watson's wife's visiting her mother when "The Five Orange Pips" occurred in 1887, according to Watson. In the end, the full date of "The Stockbroker's Clerk" depends mightily upon one's views on Watson's marriage, and one's answers to "when" and "how many" on that topic.

[30] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 70, n. 7; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 476, n. 6; OSH: Memoirs, p. 287; WBG, p. 2:155, n. 6.

[31] PAMELA J. SULLIVAN: As in this account, Watson seems ever ready to abandon his practice in favor of adventures with Holmes — whether for the day (BOSC), a week (FINA), or entirely (NORW) — but he remained diligent in keeping well-informed in his profession. During periods when he was not in active practice, we see that, for example, he kept and made use of a "small medical shelf" of books (HOUN) and read carefully "a recent treatise on surgery" (GOLD). He refers as well to a monograph on obscure nervous lesions that even its author, Dr. Percy Trevelyan, acknowledges was not widely known (RESI). That Holmes himself recognizes and values Watson's expertise is made evident in DYIN when, in constructing the trap for Culverton Smith, Holmes explicitly factors in and works to elude Watson's capabilities. Though we often see the practical application of Watson's medical skill (e.g. ENGI, GREE), in looking beyond the strictly medical/professional we are able to follow Watson's study of Holmes' methods from his first (untutored) attempt — from the list titled "Sherlock Holmes: His Limits," which met its end crumpled in the fireplace; through multiple variations (including here in STOC) of Holmes bemoaning that "I am afraid that I rather give myself away when I explain" after having done so; and onward to Watson's still not-quite-successful efforts to apply Holmes's methods, as with an unidentified walking stick in HOUN and regarding the Ronald Adair case in EMPT. While he may be less successful in *implementation*, Watson nonetheless *understands the concepts* of detection. He proclaims in the first chapter of STUD, "The proper study of mankind is man"; this is demonstrably a core belief and a guiding principle. These examples illustrate the trait of continuous learning inherent in Watson's personality, which create the ideal counterpart to Holmes' role as perpetual teacher.

bell, followed by the high, somewhat strident tones of my old companion's voice.[32]

"Ah, my dear Watson," said he, striding into the room, "I am very delighted to see you! I trust that Mrs. Watson has entirely recovered from all the little excitements connected with our adventure of the Sign of Four."[33]

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[32] JAMES C. O'LEARY: SCAN presents itself as the first time Watson had seen Holmes since his marriage. STOC is clearly the second. While the date of Watson's marriage is in doubt — SIGN implies 1888 as the year, but there is enough ambiguity in the narrative to leave both the year and month of its occurrence open to debate, and the stated dates of SCAN (March 20, 1888) and FIVE ("latter days of September" 1887) only muddy the waters more. It is clear that Paddington is his first practice (ENGR: "It was in the summer of '89, not long after my marriage…. My practice had steadily increased, and as I happened to live at no very great distance from Paddington Station…") and that Kensington, the practice Watson sells to Holmes' distant relation Dr. Verner (NORW) and where Holmes visits Watson in the disguise of an old bookseller (EMPT, spring 1894), was the second. This means that REDH, with its year of 1890 and location of Watson's house in Kensington, postdates STOC. The scam of the criminals (the Beddington brothers in STOC; John Clay and Duncan Ross in REDH) luring Holmes' client (Hall Pycroft STOC; Jabez Wilson REDH) from their place of work, or future work, to another location for a lucrative make-busy job for a bogus organization while the criminals commit a crime in the victim's absence is the same. It does seem puzzling, when seen chronologically, that Watson would spend a 189-word paragraph puzzling over the events of REDH, and that Holmes says, "I really wouldn't miss your case for the world. It is most refreshingly unusual," when, in fact, they had dealt with the same circumstances only a year earlier. When looked at in publishing order, REDH preceded STOC by a year and a half. Holmes' adventures in *The Strand* started to run in July 1891, after the detective's supposed death at the Reichenbach Fall that May. We know that *The Strand*, through the aegis of literary agent A. Conan Doyle, had to coax a reluctant, grieving Watson to write the second six of the stories that became *The Adventures* and then use more coaxing (i.e. cash) to produce the next twelve of *The Memoirs*. With no plans of churning out a long running series, Watson may have decided to focus "all that is bizarre and outside the conventions and humdrum routine of everyday life" into REDH without mentioning that Clay and Ross had conceived of the Red-Headed League scheme after reading about the Beddington brothers' arrest in the papers.

[33] OSH: Memoirs, p. 287. GREG DARAK: It would have been natural for Watson to have replied to this question by saying, "Yes. Mary is fine." Instead he replies, "we are both very well," not mentioning her name — just as, when referring to her, he also doesn't mention her name in SCAN, CROO, and FIVE. She is always just referred to as "my wife". Even when she actually appears in a story, as in BOSC or TWIS, she is never called "Mary"; she is just "my wife." Why? One can't help thinking that Conan Doyle just didn't remember her name, and couldn't be bothered looking it up, even though he must have had a copy of SIGN somewhere in his library. This may seem difficult to believe, but it shouldn't be, when you think of the other name confusions that appear in the Canon — "Mrs. Turner," two Moriarty brothers named "James," and even getting Watson's name wrong, calling him "James" in TWIS. There are even cases where Conan Doyle gets the names wrong in the same story — Trevor Bennett is called "Jack" at one point in CREE, and Grant Munro's wife in YELL also calls him "Jack." This probably indicates how seriously Doyle took the Holmes stories compared to his historical fiction, where he went to great lengths to make sure his details were accurate. It's surprising, then, when he later gets right details that you wouldn't think he would remember. For example, in PRIO, the name "John H. Watson" appears on the map, even though there's no necessity for its being there at all. Conan Doyle's using the correct name is even more surprising when you realize that he hadn't mentioned Watson's first name since he used it twelve years earlier, and then he got it wrong. Also, in BRUC he mentions the three top foreign agents in London, and correctly uses the names — Hugo Oberstein and Louis La Rothière — of the spies who were still

"Thank you, we are both very well," said I, shaking him warmly by the hand.

"And I hope, also," he continued, sitting down in the rocking-chair, "that the cares of medical practice have not entirely obliterated the interest which you used to take in our little deductive problems."

"On the contrary," I answered, "it was only last night that I was looking over my old notes, and classifying some of our past results."

"I trust that you don't consider your collection closed."

"Not at all. I should wish nothing better than to have some more of such experiences."

"To-day, for example?"

"Yes, to-day, if you like."

"And as far off as Birmingham?"

"Certainly, if you wish it."[34]

"And the practice?"

"I do my neighbor's when he goes. He is always ready to work off the debt."[35]

"Ha! Nothing could be better," said Holmes, leaning back in his chair and looking keenly at me from under his half-closed lids. "I perceive that you have been unwell lately. Summer colds are always a little trying."

"I was confined to the house by a severe chill for three days last week.[36] I thought, however, that I had cast off every trace of it."

"So you have. You look remarkably robust."

"How, then, did you know of it?"

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active at the end of SECO. My only guess for an explanation of this is that, after reading some of the early Sherlockian commentary that appeared when HOUN was first published, he realized that some people were taking the stories much more seriously than he, and that he should be paying some attention to what he had previously written. If so, it was only a temporary phase — when he wrote the dramatic version of SPEC in 1910, the client's name was not Helen Stoner but Enid Stonor, and the villain Grimesby Rylott.

[34] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 71, n. 8; WBG, p. 2:155, n. 7.

[35] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 71. n. 9; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 476, n. 7.

[36] MARK JONES: Dr. Robert S. Katz and Mark Jones have cast doubt on Watson's claim to have suffered a cold. While a bout of cold is a possibility, air-borne infectious diseases, including influenza, are less common in the summer than winter and unlikely to result in seventy-two hours in bed. The authors suggest an alternative diagnosis of cholecystitis (inflammation of the gall bladder due to stones), which is symptomatic with three days of fever. The root cause may be enteric fever (typhoid), which Watson contracted at the base hospital at Peshawar (STUD), and which can survive for long periods of time in the gall bladder, resulting the patient's becoming an unwitting carrier. While Watson may have experienced only occasional bouts of sickness, his condition may have been more problematic for others, notably Mary Watson, who the authors suggest may have contracted typhoid from her husband. Mark Jones and Robert S. Katz, "Canonical Cholecystitis — Watson, Budd, and Typhoid," *Canadian Holmes*, Vol. 45, No. 4 (Fall 2022), pp. 15-20.

"My dear fellow, you know my methods."

"You deduced it, then?"

"Certainly."

"And from what?"

"From your slippers."[37]

I glanced down at the new patent leathers[38] which I was wearing. "How on earth—" I began, but Holmes answered my question before it was asked.

"Your slippers are new," he said. "You could not have had them more than a few weeks. The soles which you are at this moment presenting to me are slightly scorched. For a moment I thought they might have got wet and been burned in the drying. But near the instep there is a small circular wafer of paper with the shopman's hieroglyphics upon it. Damp would of course have removed this. You had, then, been sitting with your feet outstretched to the fire, which a man would hardly do even in so wet a June as this[39] if he were in his full health."

Like all Holmes's reasoning the thing seemed simplicity itself when it was once explained. He read the thought upon my features, and his smile had a tinge of bitterness.

"I am afraid that I rather give myself away when I explain," said he. "Results without causes are much more impressive. You are ready to come to Birmingham, then?"

"Certainly. What is the case?"

"You shall hear it all in the train. My client is outside in a four-wheeler.[40] Can you come at once?"

"In an instant." I scribbled a note to my neighbor, rushed upstairs to explain the matter to my wife,[41] and joined Holmes upon the door-step.

"Your neighbor is a doctor," said he, nodding at the brass plate.[42]

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[37] FRANCINE KITTS: Slippers are the oldest style of shoe in history, dating back to prehistoric times. The oldest surviving pair of shoes that have been found are slippers and are believed to have been worn 10,000 years ago. They were made from woven fabric with a folded pocket to protect the wearer's toes and were strapped to the foot with a thong due to the lack of structure. The word "slipper" derives from the Old English language from the words "sliper" and "slipor," which mean "slip-shoe." As described by Dr. Samuel Johnson: "A shoe without a leather behind, into which the foot slips easily."

[38] FRANCINE KITTS: Patent leather is a fine-grained leather treated to give it a glossy appearance. During the eighteenth century a patent was granted for a process for preparing flexible leather having a glaze and polish, rendering it impervious to water and needing only to be wiped with a sponge to restore its original luster. See www.madehow.com/Volume-6/Patent-Leather.html and en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patent_leather

[39] WBG, p. 2:155, n.8.

[40] OSH: Memoirs, p. 287.

[41] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 72, n. 10.

[42] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 72, n. 11; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 477, n. 8.

"Yes; he bought a practice as I did."

"An old-established one?"

"Just the same as mine. Both have been ever since the houses were built."

"Ah! Then you got hold of the best of the two."

"I think I did. But how do you know?"

"By the steps, my boy. Yours are worn three inches deeper than his.[43] But this gentleman in the cab is my client, Mr. Hall Pycroft. Allow me to introduce you to him. Whip your horse up, cabby, for we have only just time to catch our train."

The man whom I found myself facing was a well built, fresh-complexioned young fellow, with a frank, honest face and a slight, crisp, yellow mustache. He wore a very shiny top hat[44] and a neat suit of sober black,[45] which made him look what he was — a smart young City man,[46] of

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[43] IRA MATETSKY: Assuming that the steps were made of any sort of respectable building material, the idea that a few years' routine wear and tear wore them down by three full inches seems highly implausible.

[44] BEV WOLOV: There was a time when a British man would not be seen without a hat. It was his armor with which he faced the public. It was also a statement of identity. Codified as British clothing tended to be, hat styles referenced financial and social status along with a myriad of other sartorial markers. The top hat was the sign of a gentleman, a symbolism happily employed by the ambitious, rising, middle-class Hall Pycroft.

Haberdashery tradition credits John Hetherington for inventing the top hat in 1793. According to popular folklore, the shiny luster of the silk was so intimidating when Hetherington wore it in public, women fainted, children screamed, dogs howled and crowd chaos ensued. Supposedly, the Lord Mayor fined Hetherington £500 for this outrageous disturbance of peace. In actuality, most early top hats were made of low luster, felted, beaver fur in grey, brown, beige, or white. Shiny black silk was eventually introduced and became preferred from the 1840s onward. Over the course of the top hat's more than two-hundred-year history, its crowns have been tapered, waisted, or straight-sided. Height has varied according to the fashion. Brims have narrowed or widened, curling gently or sharply at the sides. Recognized for its elegance, the top hat was considered correct day wear in the city from the moment of introduction. The top hat had become *de rigueur* evening wear with a dress coat by the 1840s. Its presence as daywear decreased in the Edwardian period when the lounge suit (sport jacket) became popular. The top hat continues to be seen, today, at formal occasions such as weddings and funerals, as well as high-society, political, and international diplomatic events. It may be proudly inherited, purchased, or discovered in a junk shop, handily reconditioned or refurbished by establishments such as James Lock & Co.

[45] BEV WOLOV: That Hall Pycroft's suit is black is not a surprise. Black was the fabric color of choice for men living or working in a nineteenth-century British city where everything turned sticky black from industry and domestic fire coal smut that swirled continuously in the air. This color preference was assisted by the development of aniline dyes in 1856, making attainable the once difficult to produce and quickly fading black dye, a problem no more. What is of greater significance is the note that the suit was described as "neat." By the 1880s, the middle-class men's coat hung loose from the shoulders with little or no definition at the waistline; baggy trousers added to this undefined silhouette. An upper-class suit, however, would fit snugly, regardless of popular trends. A tailor would be utilized to adjust seams and manipulate the fabric, making sure the suit hung smoothly and wrinkle free. Our forward-thinking Hall Pycroft was obviously aware of this sartorial delineation between classes. That his suit was "neat" strongly suggests he stepped beyond what was

the class who have been labeled cockneys,[47] but who give us our crack volunteer regiments,[48] and who turn out more fine athletes and sportsmen than any body of men in these islands. His round, ruddy face was naturally full of cheeriness, but the corners of his mouth seemed to me to be pulled down in a half-comical distress. It was not, however, until we were all in a first-class carriage and well started upon our journey to Birmingham that I was able to learn what the trouble was which had driven him to Sherlock Holmes.

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typical of his middle-class status and used a tailor to make sure his suit fitted him properly. Ambitious, he wanted to look the role to which he aspired: a gentleman.

[46] JONATHAN TIEMANN: The City, in 1889 as today, is to the British financial markets as Wall Street is to the American. While New York had become an important financial center by the 1880s, and several cities on the Continent had substantial bourses, the City of London was the financial hub of global capitalism. Holmes's description of Hall Pycroft indicates that he suited the stereotype of his occupation. This stereotype would have been useful to Pycroft's employers, too. In the 1880s, brokerage, banking, and trading houses were typically private partnerships, which generally did not disclose their financial position. Location and image were crucial if they were to inspire confidence in their customers and trading counterparties. A customer arriving at the offices of Coxon & Woodhouse would expect to see a number of young clerks at work, and it would be essential for them to look the part. Pycroft was of a type as recognizable in 1889 as the young, professionally dressed men and women spilling out of the pubs in Leadenhall Market or the South Street Seaport on summer Friday afternoons are today.

[47] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 72, n. 12; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 477, n. 9; OSH: Memoirs, p. 278. MARK JONES: Hall Pycroft is the only character in the Canon explicitly referred to as a "cockney," though there may be others whose origins go unnoted. The term "cockney" is traditionally used to refer to Londoners born in the East End — within the chimes of "Bow Bells," i.e., St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, in the City of London — but is often used to refer to Londoners more broadly. The word derives from the fourteenth-century term "cokenay," meaning "cock's eggs," which are of course a physical impossibility, and hence the term had pejorative connotations (*Britannica*). Conan Doyle certainly used the term to disparage in "Selecting a Ghost" (*London Society*, December 1883), where a character displays the "usual cockney vulgarity," and in "The Story of the Club-Footed Grocer" (*Strand Magazine*, November 1898), where another is referred to as a "cursed cockney thief." Here, however, the cockneys are held up as great volunteer soldiers, athletes and sportsmen — high praise from Conan Doyle.

Cockney is also a dialect, famed for its rhyming slang in which words are substituted for others, often in very convoluted ways. Some rhymes are obvious, such as "apples and pears" for "stairs," while others require an additional step to be understood, such as "use your loaf" for "use your head," where "loaf" is short for "loaf of bread." Though Conan Doyle often writes in dialect, notably in *Rodney Stone* with a dazzling array of accents, he does not seek to give Pycroft the distinctive cadence of cockney speech here, although he does in *A Duet, with an Occasional Chorus* (1899), in which one character speaks "in the softly insinuating way of the cockney."

In May 2021, Mark Jones claimed to have unearthed a cockney version of STOC which he presented to a meeting of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star*. The variant had apparently been prepared by Dr John H. Watson at the request of *Strand* editor Herbert Greenhough Smith, who sensed an opportunity to expand the readership of the journal from the genteel West End to a new readership in the east of the city. Jones was unable to prove the provenance of the document, written in cockney slang, and some anachronistic usage therein seems to indicate he was fooled by an elaborate forgery.

[48] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 72, n. 13; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 478, n. 10; 5OSH: Memoirs, pp. 278-79

"We have a clear run here of seventy minutes," Holmes remarked.[49] "I want you, Mr. Hall Pycroft, to tell my friend your very interesting experience exactly as you have told it to me, or with more detail if possible. It will be of use to me to hear the succession of events again. It is a case, Watson, which may prove to have something in it, or may prove to have nothing, but which, at least, presents those unusual and outré[50] features which are as dear to you as they are to me. Now, Mr. Pycroft, I shall not interrupt you again."

Our young companion looked at me with a twinkle in his eye.

"The worst of the story is," said he, "that I show myself up as such a confounded fool. Of course it may work out all right, and I don't see that I could have done otherwise; but if I have lost my crib[51] and get nothing in exchange I shall feel what a soft Johnnie[52] I have been. I'm not very good at telling a story, Dr. Watson, but it is like this with me:

"I used to have a billet at Coxon & Woodhouse's, of Draper's Gardens,[53] but they were let in[54] early in the spring through the Venezuelan loan,[55] as no doubt you remember, and came a nasty cropper.[56] I had been with them five years, and old Coxon gave me a ripping good testimonial when the smash came, but of course we clerks[57] were all turned adrift, the twenty-seven of us. I tried here and tried there, but there were lots of other chaps on

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[49] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 72, n. 14.

[50] OSH: Memoirs, p. 279.

[51] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 73, n. 15; OSH: Memoirs, p. 289; WBG, p. 2:155, n. 9.

[52] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 73, n. 16; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 478, n. 11.

[53] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 73, n. 17; WBG, p. 2:155, n. 10.

[54] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 73, n. 18; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 474, n. 12; OSH: Memoirs, p. 289.

[55] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 73, n. 19; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 478-49, n. 13; OSH: Memoirs, p. 289. JONATHAN TIEMANN: City financiers of the Victorian era handled securities from all over the world. The emerging, and not entirely stable, nation of Venezuela tapped the global markets for financing, largely to build railways, for much of the nineteenth century. The country at least partially defaulted and rescheduled its debt several times. One of its major debt restructurings took place in the autumn of 1888, consolidating foreign debt, paying 3%, and domestic debt, paying 5%, into a combined debt, supposedly (but never actually) paying 4%. While their prices, as reported in the newspapers, were fairly stable throughout 1889, a small, aggressive firm might well be fatally wrong-footed speculating in such securities. Conan Doyle was also a self-confessed speculator, so the "Venezuelan Loan" may also have recalled one of his own unsuccessful forays.

[56] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 73, n. 20; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 479, n. 14; OSH: Memoirs, p. 289.

[57] MAX MAGEE: For Americans who have only *read* Sherlock Holmes (in American English, in our heads), it might be surprising to listen to British speakers pronounce some words in the Canon. In some cases, words like "clerk" sound jarringly different from what we might expect. For example, in the BBC Radio adaption and many other audiovisual and audiobook narrations of "The Stockbroker's Clerk," "clerk" is pronounced the way we would expect "clark" to be pronounced in British English, though to American ears, it may even sound closer to "clock." The British pronunciation of "Irene" (eye-REEN-ee) Adler in "A Scandal in Bohemia" is another striking example of how our two countries are separated by a common language.

the same lay[58] as myself, and it was a perfect frost for a long time. I had been taking three pounds a week at Coxon's, and I had saved about seventy of them, but I soon worked my way through that and out at the other end.[59] I was fairly at the end of my tether at last, and could hardly find the stamps to answer the advertisements or the envelopes to stick them to. I had worn out my boots paddling up office stairs, and I seemed just as far from getting a billet as ever.

"At last I saw a vacancy at Mawson & Williams's, the great stockbroking firm in Lombard Street.[60] I dare say E.C.[61] is not much in your line,[62] but I can tell you that this is about the richest house in London. The advertisement was to be answered by letter only. I sent in my testimonial and application, but without the least hope of getting it. Back came an answer by return, saying that if I would appear next Monday I might take over my new duties at once, provided that my appearance was satisfactory.[63] No one knows how these things are worked. Some people say that the manager just plunges his hand into the heap and takes the first that comes. Anyhow it was my innings[64] that time, and I don't ever wish to feel better pleased. The screw[65] was a pound a week rise, and the duties just about the same as at Coxon's.

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[58] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 73, n. 21; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 474, n. 15; 5OSH: Memoirs, p. 289. JONATHAN TIEMANN: As noted above, location was a key indicator of stability and status in the City of London. "EC," or East Central, remains a common designation for the City — postal codes for most City addresses begin with "EC" today. Pycroft was suggesting that Holmes and Watson may not have detailed knowledge of the hierarchy of City firms (Pycroft surely underestimated Holmes here). Although the names of Pycroft's firms are fictitious, presumably changed to protect the guilty, the connotations of their addresses are not. Draper's Gardens, off Throgmorton Avenue just north of the Bank of England, was an urban green space until the Drapers' Company leased it for development beginning in about 1877. Today, two large office blocks stand there. But in 1889 it was still a relatively new address, one that, while credibly within the realm of the London capital markets, suggests that Coxon & Woodhouse were a smaller, more aggressive firm. Mawson's, in contrast, were in Lombard Street, long the epicenter of finance in London — the classic work on the London market and international finance is Walter Bagehot's 1873 *Lombard Street: A Description of the Money Market*. Moving from a firm in Draper's Gardens to one in Lombard Street was clearly a step up for young Pycroft.

[59] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 73, n. 22.

[60] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, pp. 73-74, n. 23; OSH: Memoirs, p. 289.

[61] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 74, n. 24; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 480, n. 16; OSH: Memoirs, p. 289; WBG, p. 2:155, n. 11.

[62] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 74, n. 25.

[63] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 74, n. 26; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 480, n. 17.

[64] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 74, n. 27; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 480, n. 18.

[65] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 74, n. 28; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 480, n. 19; OSH: Memoirs, p. 290; WBG, p. 2:156, n. 12.

"And now I come to the queer part of the business. I was in diggings[66] out Hampstead[67] way, 17 Potter's Terrace. Well, I was sitting doing a smoke that very evening after I had been promised the appointment, when up came my landlady with a card which had 'Arthur Pinner, Financial Agent,' printed upon it. I had never heard the name before and could not imagine what he wanted with me; but, of course, I asked her to show him up. In he walked, a middle-sized, dark-haired, dark-eyed, black-bearded man, with a touch of the Sheeny[68] about his nose. He had a brisk kind of way with him and spoke sharply, like a man who knew the value of time."

"'Mr. Hall Pycroft, I believe?'" said he.

"'Yes, sir,' I answered, pushing a chair towards him.

"'Lately engaged at Coxon & Woodhouse's?'

"'Yes, sir.'

"'And now on the staff of Mawson's.'

"'Quite so.'[69]

"'Well,' said he, 'the fact is that I have heard some really extraordinary stories about your financial ability. You remember Parker, who used to be Coxon's manager? He can never say enough about it.'

"Of course I was pleased to hear this. I had always been pretty sharp in the office, but I had never dreamed that I was talked about in the City in this fashion.

"'You have a good memory?' said he.

"'Pretty fair,' I answered, modestly.

"'Have you kept in touch with the market while you have been out of work?' he asked.

"'Yes. I read the Stock Exchange[70] List[71] every morning.'

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[66] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 74, n. 29; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 480, n. 20.;.

[67] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 74, n. 30; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 481, n. 21.

[68] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 74, n. 31; OSH: Memoirs, p. 290. THE EDITORS: The word "Sheeny" was frequently heard as a derogatory reference to Jewish people in Victorian England. According to the dictionaries, its first recorded written use was in 1824 and its origin is obscure. For discussion of the Canon's references to Jewish people and whether these reflect anti-Semitism, see the works by Andrew Solberg, Charles Blanksteen, and Hartley Nathan and Clifford Goldfarb, cited by Tamar Zeffren in note 92 of the annotated "The Cardboard Box" in the 2020 *Baker Street Almanac*.

[69] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 75, n. 32.

[70] LOU LEWIS: The earliest British stock exchange, The Royal Exchange, so denominated by Elizabeth I in 1571, is said to have been founded by English financiers Thomas Gresham and Sir Richard Clough on the model of the Antwerp Bourse. In 1666, the enterprising Thomas Gresham added two additional floors to the original trading floor to house retail businesses, effectively creating Britain's first shopping mall. Stockbrokers per se were denied membership because of their loud and uncouth manners. In 1698, one John Castaing published a list of currency, stock, and commodity prices at Jonathan's Coffee House where the stockbrokers gathered. It included prices for gold, ducats, silver staters, and pieces of eight. The first Rule Book was not published by the Exchange until 1812 cov-

"'Now that shows real application!' he cried. 'That is the way to prosper! You won't mind my testing you, will you? Let me see. How are Ayrshires?'[72]

"'A hundred and six and a quarter to a hundred and five and seven-eighths.'[73]

"'And New Zealand Consolidated?'

"'A hundred and four.

"'And British Broken Hills?'[74]

"'Seven to seven-and-six.'

"'Wonderful!' he cried, with his hands up.[75] 'This quite fits in with all that I had heard. My boy, my boy, you are very much too good to be a clerk at Mawson's!'

"This outburst rather astonished me, as you can think. 'Well,' said I, 'other people don't think quite so much of me as you seem to do, Mr. Pinner. I had a hard enough fight to get this berth, and I am very glad to have it.'

"'Pooh, man; you should soar above it. You are not in your true sphere. Now, I'll tell you how it stands with me. What I have to offer is little

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ering issues from trade settlement to defaults. (Setting off fireworks, and footballs, were forbidden at the exchange.) Jonathan's was the scene of several critical events in the history of share trading, including the South Sea Bubble and the Panic of 1745. It was destroyed by fire in 1748 and rebuilt. In 1761, a club of 150 brokers and jobbers was formed to trade stocks. The club built its own building in 1773 in Sweeting's Alley, which was originally dubbed the New Jonathan's, but was renamed the Stock Exchange (it is now officially called the London Stock Exchange). In 1923 the Exchange received a coat of arms from the College of Arms along with the motto "Dictum Meum Pactum" ("My word is my bond"). The Exchange moved to 172 Broad Street in 1972.

[71] LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 482, n. 22; OSH: Memoirs, p. 290.

[72] OSH: Memoirs, p. 290.

[73] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 75, n. 32; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 482, n. 23; OSH: Memoirs, p. 290; WBG, p. 2:157, n. 13.

[74] OSH: Memoirs, p. 290. PETER BLAU: The Broken Hill Proprietary Corp. was founded in 1885 by Charles Rasp, who in 1883 had discovered an orebody of silver, lead, and zinc that proved to be the largest and richest of its kind in the world. Those shares would have been a good investment: now known as BHP Billion, it is the largest company in Australia, and the largest mining company in the world, with world-wide operations. The mine, and the company, took their names from Broken Hill, which was named by the explorer Charles Stuart in 1844. The hill no longer exists, having been mined away in the early open-cut development. But you can still visit the town of Broken Hill (which has a population of about 17,000) and stay at the Palace Hotel, which opened as the Broken Hill Coffee Palace in 1889. It did not do well, but in 1892 it was granted a liquor license and re-named the Palace Hotel, which you may have seen in the film "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" (1994).

JONATHAN TIEMANN: An ambitious young person like Pycroft might well consult the newspapers every day to stay current with quotations on the various securities on the London Exchange List. "New Zealand Consolidated" refers to debt securities of the British colony in that place, the price in percentage of par value. "British Broken Hills" refers to shares in a mining concern, quoted in shillings per share. Ayrshire does not appear on the exchange list in 1889, but may have been, for example, a railway.

[75] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 75, n. 35; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 482, n. 24; WBG, p. 2:157, n. 14.

enough when measured by your ability, but when compared with Mawson's, it's light to dark. Let me see. When do you go to Mawson's?'

"'On Monday.'

"'Ha, ha! I think I would risk a little sporting flutter[76] that you don't go there at all.'

"'Not go to Mawson's?'

"'No, sir. By that day you will be the business manager of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, Limited, with a hundred and thirty-four branches in the towns and villages of France, not counting one in Brussels and one in San Remo.'

"This took my breath away. 'I never heard of it,' said I.

"'Very likely not. It has been kept very quiet, for the capital was all privately subscribed, and it's too good a thing to let the public into. My brother, Harry Pinner, is promoter, and joins the board after allotment as managing director.[77] He knew I was in the swim[78] down here, and asked me to pick up a good man cheap. A young, pushing man with plenty of snap about him. Parker spoke of you, and that brought me here to-night. We can only offer you a beggarly five hundred to start with.'

"'Five hundred a year!' I shouted.

"'Only that at the beginning; but you are to have an overriding commission of one per cent on all business done by your agents, and you may take my word for it that this will come to more than your salary.'

"'But I know nothing about hardware.'

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[76] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 76, n. 36; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 483, n. 25.

[77] JONATHAN TIEMANN: The name of Beddington's bogus company was typical of firms organized in Britain to do business overseas. For example, in 1850 the Anglo-Californian Gold Mining Company set up in business to send miners from Cornwall to California to work what proved to be a non-existent gold mine. The name of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company indicated that its headquarters was in the British Midlands (of which Birmingham is a principal city), and its primary business was in France. Pycroft, perhaps blinded by the prospect of £500 per year, evidently managed not to wonder how he failed to hear of a firm that had 134 branches in France. Holmes, of course, saw the problem.

When new joint-stock companies came to market in Britain in the nineteenth century, they would solicit share subscriptions, either publicly or, as was supposedly the case with the Franco-Midland company, from private subscribers. The company would have one or more named promoters, along with a board of directors and possibly a group of trustees. After the close of the subscription period, the company would send the successful subscribers allotment letters, representing the right to purchase shares. This was the point at which promoter "Harry Pinner" was to have joined the board. These steps would have sounded normal to a person of Pycroft's experience.

Subscribers tendered their allotment letters and payment, receiving scrip exchangeable for registered shares. Transferring scrip was easier than transferring registered shares, and scrip was also easier to hide from future assessments against shareholders, so until a company seemed likely to pay dividends (to registered shares only) investors tended to prefer scrip to shares.

[78] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 76, n. 37; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 484, n. 26.

"'Tut, my boy; you know about figures.'

My head buzzed, and I could hardly sit still in my chair. But suddenly a little chill of doubt came upon me.

"'I must be frank with you,' said I. 'Mawson only gives me two hundred, but Mawson is safe. Now, really, I know so little about your company that — '

"'Ah, smart, smart!' he cried, in a kind of ecstasy of delight. 'You are the very man for us. You are not to be talked over, and quite right, too. Now, here's a note for a hundred pounds, and if you think that we can do business you may just slip it into your pocket as an advance upon your salary.'

"'That is very handsome,' said I. 'When should I take over my new duties?'

"'Be in Birmingham to-morrow at one,' said he. 'I have a note in my pocket here which you will take to my brother. You will find him at 126B Corporation Street, where the temporary offices of the company are situated.[79] Of course he must confirm your engagement, but between ourselves it will be all right.'

"'Really, I hardly know how to express my gratitude, Mr. Pinner,' said I.

"'Not at all, my boy. You have only got your deserts. There are one or two small things — mere formalities — which I must arrange with you. You have a bit of paper beside you there. Kindly write upon it "I am perfectly willing to act as business manager to the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, Limited, at a minimum salary of £500."'

"I did as he asked, and he put the paper in his pocket.

"'There is one other detail,' said he. 'What do you intend to do about Mawson's?'

"I had forgotten all about Mawson's in my joy. 'I'll write and resign,' said I.

"'Precisely what I don't want you to do. I had a row over you with Mawson's manager. I had gone up to ask him about you, and he was very offensive; accused me of coaxing you away from the service of the firm, and that sort of thing. At last I fairly lost my temper. "If you want good men you should pay them a good price," said I.'

"'He would rather have our small price than your big one,' said he.

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[79] JONATHAN TIEMANN: The temporary nature, address, and spare appearance of the company's pop-up office in Birmingham startled Pycroft, accustomed to more prestigious addresses and well-appointed offices. But the pop-up office (a device that also appears in "The Red-Headed League") echoes other swindles of the Victorian Era. In the 1850s, the Ave Maria Mining Company was another London-based joint-stock company whose purported business was to exploit a gold mine in California. In June 1854, after several years in which investors received no reports at all from the company's management or directors, the London *Morning Herald* reported that an Ave Maria shareholder had written that "the offices are now closed, and the furniture and effects have been seized for rent."

"'I'll lay you a fiver,'[80] said I, 'that when he has my offer you'll never so much as hear from him again.'

"'Done!' said he. 'We picked him out of the gutter, and he won't leave us so easily.' Those were his very words."

"'The impudent scoundrel!' I cried. 'I've never so much as seen him in my life. Why should I consider him in any way? I shall certainly not write if you would rather I didn't.'

"'Good! That's a promise,' said he, rising from his chair. 'Well, I'm delighted to have got so good a man for my brother. Here's your advance of a hundred pounds, and here is the letter. Make a note of the address, 126B Corporation Street, and remember that one o'clock to-morrow is your appointment. Good-night; and may you have all the fortune that you deserve!'

"That's just about all that passed between us, as near as I can remember. You can imagine, Dr. Watson, how pleased I was at such an extraordinary bit of good fortune. I sat up half the night hugging myself over it, and next day I was off to Birmingham in a train that would take me in plenty time for my appointment. I took my things to a hotel in New Street,[81] and then I made my way to the address which had been given me.

"It was a quarter of an hour before my time, but I thought that would make no difference. 126B was a passage between two large shops,[82] which led to a winding stone stair, from which there were many flats, let as offices to companies or professional men. The names of the occupants were painted at the bottom on the wall, but there was no such name as the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, Limited. I stood for a few minutes with my heart in my boots, wondering whether the whole thing was an elaborate hoax or not, when up came a man and addressed me. He was very like the chap I had seen the night before, the same figure and voice, but he was clean shaven and his hair was lighter.

"'Are you Mr. Hall Pycroft?' he asked.

"'Yes,' said I.

"'Oh! I was expecting you, but you are a trifle before your time. I had a note from my brother this morning in which he sang your praises very loudly.'

"'I was just looking for the offices when you came.

"'We have not got our name up yet, for we only secured these temporary premises last week. Come up with me, and we will talk the matter over.'

"I followed him to the top of a very lofty stair, and there, right under the slates, were a couple of empty, dusty little rooms, uncarpeted and uncurtained,

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[80] OSH: Memoirs, p. 290.
[81] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 77, n. 38; OSH: Memoirs, p. 290.
[82] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 77, n. 39; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 485, n. 27; WBG, p. 2:159, n. 15.

into which he led me. I had thought of a great office with shining tables and rows of clerks, such as I was used to, and I dare say I stared rather straight at the two deal[83] chairs and one little table, which, with a ledger and a waste paper basket, made up the whole furniture.

"'Don't be disheartened, Mr. Pycroft,' said my new acquaintance, seeing the length of my face. 'Rome was not built in a day, and we have lots of money at our backs, though we don't cut much dash yet in offices. Pray sit down, and let me have your letter.'

"I gave it to him, and he read it over very carefully.

"'You seem to have made a vast impression upon my brother Arthur,' said he; 'and I know that he is a pretty shrewd judge. He swears by London, you know; and I by Birmingham; but this time I shall follow his advice. Pray consider yourself definitely engaged."

"'What are my duties?' I asked.

"'You will eventually manage the great depot in Paris, which will pour a flood of English crockery into the shops of a hundred and thirty-four agents in France. The purchase will be completed in a week, and meanwhile you will remain in Birmingham and make yourself useful.'

"'How?'

"For answer, he took a big red book out of a drawer.

"'This is a directory of Paris,' said he, 'with the trades after the names of the people.[84] I want you to take it home with you, and to mark off all the

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[83] OSH: Memoirs, p. 290.

[84] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 78, n. 40. FABIENNE COUROUGE: The Directory of Paris, or *Annuaire et almanach du commerce et de l'industrie*, was a reliable source for research. It contained extensive topographical, administrative, commercial, legislative, and statistical information as well as cards, plans, advertising, schedules (for libraries, museums, etc.), fare information (customs, cars, etc.), and tables (main branches of industry, currencies, etc.). It was first published in 1819, as the fruit of relentless work of its creator, Sébastien Bottin, a priest who had left behind the cassock to focus on politics during the French Revolution. Also interested in statistics, he started to collect data and to classify and list trade and industry stakeholders beginning in 1796. After the founder's death, his company was purchased by the Didot family and took the name of "Didot-Bottin" in 1881. Bottin's publications soon became an institution in France, so that it was named "Le Bottin" and issued in a wide range of fields, such as *Le Bottin mondain* (a "Who's Who") and *Bottin gourmand* (a gastronomic guidebook). Unable to compete with the Internet, the Bottin stopped being printed in 2020. Nonetheless, in everyday language, "Bottin" remains a synonym for a very dull book. Another famous use of Le Bottin was to help police officers during questioning: a whack on the head with a good old Bottin made the suspect feel dizzy and keener to confess, bur left no lasting marks! No doubt Sherlock Holmes, who made a point to keep abreast of new methods, was aware of this exotic police technique.

hardware sellers, with their addresses.[85] It would be of the greatest use to me to have them.'

"'Surely there are classified lists?' I suggested.

"'Not reliable ones. Their system is different from ours. Stick at it, and let me have the lists by Monday, at twelve. Good-day, Mr. Pycroft. If you continue to show zeal and intelligence you will find the company a good master.'

"I went back to the hotel with the big book under my arm, and with very conflicting feelings in my breast. On the one hand, I was definitely engaged and had a hundred pounds in my pocket; on the other, the look of the offices, the absence of name on the wall, and other of the points which would strike a business man had left a bad impression as to the position of my employers. However, come what might, I had my money, so I settled down to my task. All Sunday I was kept hard at work, and yet by Monday I had only got as far as H. I went round to my employer, found him in the same dismantled kind of room, and was told to keep at it until Wednesday, and then come again. On Wednesday it was still unfinished, so I hammered away until Friday — that is, yesterday.[86] Then I brought it round to Mr. Harry Pinner.

"'Thank you very much,' said he; 'I fear that I underrated the difficulty of the task. This list will be of very material assistance to me.'

"'It took some time,' said I.

"'And now,' said he, 'I want you to make a list of the furniture shops, for they all sell crockery.'

"'Very good.'

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[85] FABIENNE COUROUGE: Hardware stores are quite popular in France and traces of this activity can be found as early as 1537. In the late nineteenth century, this trade was flourishing, and stores opened everywhere as many craftsmen left their villages or small towns to work in factories and hardware stores became the only way to get tools and household items. This makes the figure of 134 branches given by Arthur Pinner totally plausible. Moreover, in 1889, when this story takes place, Paris was the global capital of department stores. These first "cathedrals of shopping" started emerging as the dark and damp streets were replaced by large and airy boulevards and rail freight transport was developing. These stores, mostly located on the Left Bank of the Seine, displayed modern architectures and applied new selling techniques and thus were likely to absorb "a flood of English crockery." The most famous of them were Le Petit Saint-Thomas, Les Grands Magasins du Louvre, and La Samaritaine. The oldest one, Au Bon Marché (now "Le bon Marché") still exists, as do some other famous Parisian department stores such as Le BHV (Bazar de l'Hôtel de Ville), Le Printemps, and Les Galerie Lafayette. Émile Zola (1840-1902) set his novel *Au Bonheur des Dames* (1882-83) in a typical department store, which Zola presented as a symbol of the new technology that was both improving society and devouring it. The novel describes merchandising, management techniques, marketing, and consumerism. The best lies include some truth, and Hall Pycroft, a daily reader of the stock exchange listings, was likely to be aware of European economic affairs and keen to believe Pinner's clever fraud.

[86] WBG, p. 2:160, n. 16.

"'And you can come up to-morrow evening, at seven, and let me know how you are getting on. Don't overwork yourself. A couple of hours at Day's Music Hall[87] in the evening would do you no harm after your labors.' He laughed as he spoke, and I saw with a thrill that his second tooth upon the left-hand side had been very badly stuffed[88] with gold."[89]

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[87] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 79, n. 41; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 488, n. 28; OSH: Memoirs, p. 290. ROSS DAVIES: Day's Music-Hall is a lowbrow oddity in the Canon. It is, according to Catherine Cooke, "the only Music Hall referred to in the Canon, and it is not somewhere one would expect to find Holmes, except perhaps in the line of duty. Now Watson might be a very different matter!" — presumably because a music hall was a "'lower' place of musical entertainment," while concert halls were the more elevated homes of opera and the like. *London's Music and Concert Halls, 1895*, *The Baker Street Journal* (Mar. 1995), pp. 7, 12-13. So, when Harry Pinner advised Hall Pycroft that "[a] couple of hours at Day's Music-Hall in the evening would do you no harm after your labors," what was it that Pinner was encouraging Pycroft to take in? A look at newspaper articles about, and advertisements for, Day's at the time indicate the possibilities were numerous and various, and, as Cooke, suggests, not particular highbrow — from boxing to juggling to comedy theater to "The Herculean Trio of Ladderites," and even the occasional fistfight involving patrons and police. No opera. *Sporting Life* (Mar. 28, 1888) p. 4; *The Era* (Feb. 11, 1888) p. 21; *Music Hall and Theatre Review* (Aug. 31, 1889) p. 11; *The Era* (Aug. 10, 1889), p. 22; *Birmingham Mai*l (Jan. 23, 1888) p. 3. But those same articles and advertisements suggest that the identification of "music hall" with the lower entertainments and "concert hall" with the higher was not sharp. How can we be sure? Because some called Day's a "music hall" and some called it a "concert hall." (They also moved the apostrophe around, but that is an awfully widespread abomination of sloppy writing.)

NANCY HOLDER: Day's Music Hall was located on Smallbrook Street in Birmingham, the hometown of the erstwhile Franco-Midland Hardware Company. This is the only "clear" reference to the popular and ubiquitous Victorian music hall in the entire Sherlockian Canon. Roger Johnson, "'Confound that Whining Music! It Gets on My Nerves!': Popular Music in Holmes's World," *Referring to My Notes: Music and the Sherlockian Canon,* Alexander Katz & Karen Wilson, eds., BSI Press, 2021, p. 103. Clarity of the term itself was hard-won; by 1888, when "Harry Pinner" urged Hall Pycroft to take a break at Day's, the designation "music hall" was a regulated, legalistic term resulting from long years of political wrangling, bureaucratic chaos, and moral indignation.

A short history: The owners of the ale-houses of Georgian England, who mainly served beer and food, were dismayed by the rise of sumptuous gin palaces beginning around 1830. Publicans pressured magistrates to deny these palaces licenses on the grounds that they were hell-pits designed solely for getting drunk and meeting prostitutes. Seeking legitimacy, gin-palace owners rented out private rooms for amateur "free-and-easy" singing groups (the karaoke of the time). Often-raucous "open mic" nights gave way to more controlled programs featuring professional singers and other performers, morphing into music halls. Early music halls such as the Canterbury and Rouse's Grecian Saloon presented "refined entertainment" such as opera selections and ballets, and so it would have been possible for Holmes to attend performances of his beloved operas at the music hall. Lee Jackson, *Palaces of Pleasure: How the Victorians Invented Mass Entertainment,* Yale University Press, 2019, pp. 1-94.

MAX MAGEE: In the BBC Radio adaptation of this story, when Pinner suggests visiting Day's Music Hal, he sings and reprises several bars of Charles Coborn's song "Two Lovely Black Eyes" in a giddy, laughing voice. It is a jarring and unsettling addition that implies that Pinner may be becoming unhinged.

[88] OSH: Memoirs, p. 290.

[89] HARRISON HUNT: This refers to the upper left lateral incisor, which is next to the left front tooth (central incisor). As its gold stuffing (filling) was revealed only when Pinner laughed, the tooth was almost certainly in his upper jaw; if in the lower jaw, it would have been seen when he was speaking.

Sherlock Holmes rubbed his hands with delight, and I stared with astonishment at our client.

"You may well look surprised, Dr. Watson; but it is this way," said he: "When I was speaking to the other chap in London, at the time that he laughed at my not going to Mawson's, I happened to notice that his tooth was stuffed in this very identical fashion. The glint of the gold in each case caught my eye, you see. When I put that with the voice and figure being the same, and only those things altered which might be changed by a razor or a wig, I could not doubt that it was the same man. Of course you expect two

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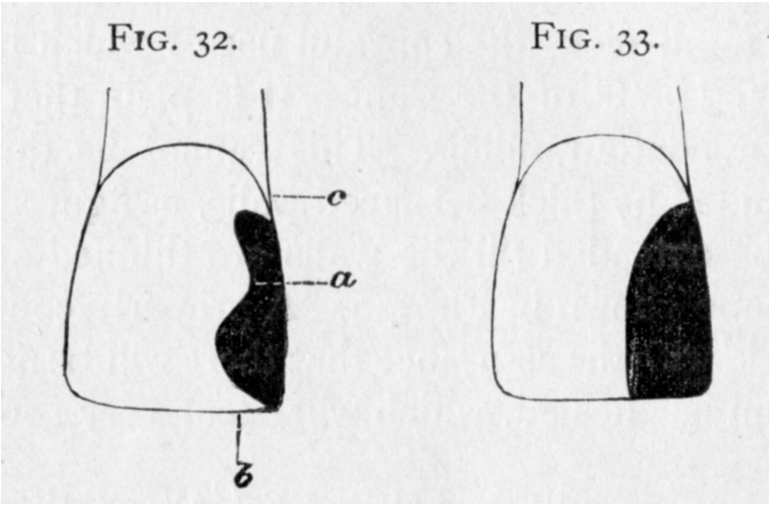
This dental work, which was not easily visible, was therefore most likely in the outer (cuspid) side of the tooth and near the gum line rather than its lower edge.

Gold was commonly used for stuffing teeth in the late nineteenth century, and the standard period textbook about treating dental cavities — *Methods of Filling Teeth* by Rodrigues Ottolengui, M.D.S. — recommends gold as "pre-eminently the best material with which to fill teeth." This volume also gives us an idea of how an incisor "badly stuffed" with gold may have appeared: "In Fig. 32, we observe [an incisor] filled, according to methods too often followed. There are three errors along the border … . The slight prominence at *a* has been left, thus producing an undulating border … this prominence is weak … and must almost certainly crack … . For similar reasons, the sharp point at *b* should not have been left [and] the heavy undercut at *c* is an error … ." A filling with an even shape, as seen in Figure 33, was considered much better, even though it displayed more metal. (Ottolengui, *Methods of Filling Teeth, Second Edition* [London: Claudius Ash & Sons, 1899] 69, 20.)




Dr. Ottolengui is of particular interest to Sherlockians as he was not only a respected dentist, but also a highly popular and inventive American mystery writer who published numerous works between 1892 and 1901. Two of his short stories are included in *The American Rivals of Sherlock Holmes*, and a number of others have been printed in the Library of Congress Crime Classics volume *Final Proof* (Naperville, IL: Poisoned Pen Press, 2020), with an insightful introduction and notes by Leslie S. Klinger.

brothers to be alike, but not that they should have the same tooth stuffed in the same way. He bowed me out, and I found myself in the street, hardly knowing whether I was on my head or my heels. Back I went to my hotel, put my head in a basin of cold water,[90] and tried to think it out. Why had he sent me from London to Birmingham? Why had he got there before me? And why had he written a letter from himself to himself? It was altogether too much for me, and I could make no sense of it. And then suddenly it struck me that what was dark to me might be very light to Mr. Sherlock Holmes. I had just time to get up to town by the night train[91] to see him this morning, and to bring you both back with me to Birmingham."

There was a pause after the stockbroker's clerk had concluded his surprising experience. Then Sherlock Holmes cocked his eye at me, leaning back on the cushions with a pleased and yet critical face, like a connoisseur who has just taken his first sip of a comet vintage.[92]

"Rather fine, Watson, is it not?" said he. "There are points in it which please me. I think that you will agree with me that an interview with Mr. Arthur Harry Pinner[93] in the temporary offices of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company, Limited, would be a rather interesting experience for both of us."

"But how can we do it?" I asked.

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[90] XANDER SOBECKI: The use of cold water as a sedative for mental distress dates back to the early 1700s, beginning with Sir John Floyer's 1697 treatise prescribing the use of hot and cold baths for various conditions. Cold water was proposed as a natural sedative for calming the mind, and became common throughout England and central Europe as both a home remedy and a formal treatment given at medical institutions. While always described as unpleasant if not dreaded, its ultimate effect of relaxed mental state was consistent enough to warrant its use for three centuries. Mental asylums of the Victorian era used ice-water immersion as a formal treatment for various forms of neurodivergence, both chronic and acute. Twentieth-century science retroactively explained the success of the practice by discovering that the mild hypothermia created by the treatment reduced blood flow to the brain.

In modern medicine, using cold water to lower body temperature is primarily used for muscular trauma or as a last-defense treatment of cardiac arrest. Psychological academics regard the use of ice water in mental institutions as an example of barbarism that gave way to humanistic methods of understanding the struggles of the human mind. However, the use of cold sensation has remained a popular home remedy with some merits in psychological relief. Dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) is a widely used system of emotional grounding that uses sensory triggers such as touch, hearing, and smell to bring a person back into the present moment before their foresight or memories can overwhelm them. Much like this client soaked his head to ease exasperated confusion, DBT practitioners would hold a piece of ice or hold their hands under a faucet to focus on the feeling of hot or cold.

[91] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 79, n. 42.

[92] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 79, n. 43; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 489, n. 29; OSH: Memoirs, p. 290

[93] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 79, n. 44; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 480, n. 30; OSH: Memoirs, p. 290.

"Oh, easily enough," said Hall Pycroft, cheerily. "You are two friends of mine who are in want of a billet, and what could be more natural than that I should bring you both round to the managing director?"

"Quite so, of course," said Holmes. "I should like to have a look at the gentleman, and see if I can make anything of his little game. What qualities have you, my friend, which would make your services so valuable? or is it possible that —" He began biting his nails and staring blankly out of the window, and we hardly drew another word from him until we were in New Street.[94]

At seven o'clock that evening we were walking, the three of us, down Corporation Street to the company's offices.

"It is no use our being at all before our time," said our client. "He only comes there to see me, apparently, for the place is deserted up to the very hour he names."

"That is suggestive," remarked Holmes.

"By Jove, I told you so!" cried the clerk. "That's he walking ahead of us there."

He pointed to a smallish, dark,[95] well-dressed man who was bustling along the other side of the road. As we watched him he looked across at a boy who was bawling out the latest edition of the evening paper, and running over among the cabs and busses, he bought one from him. Then, clutching it in his hand, he vanished through a door-way.

"There he goes!" cried Hall Pycroft. "These are the company's offices into which he has gone. Come with me, and I'll fix it up as easily as possible."

Following his lead, we ascended five stories, until we found ourselves outside a half-opened door, at which our client tapped. A voice within bade us enter, and we entered a bare, unfurnished room such as Hall Pycroft had described. At the single table sat the man whom we had seen in the street, with his evening paper spread out in front of him, and as he looked up at us it seemed to me that I had never looked upon a face which bore such marks of grief, and of something beyond grief — of a horror such as comes to few men in a lifetime. His brow glistened with perspiration, his cheeks were of the dull, dead white of a fish's belly, and his eyes were wild and staring. He looked at his clerk as though he failed to recognize him, and I could see by the astonishment depicted upon our conductor's face that this was by no means the usual appearance of his employer.

"You look ill, Mr. Pinner!" he exclaimed.

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[94] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 80, n. 45.
[95] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 80, n. 46; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 489, n. 31.

"Yes, I am not very well," answered the other, making obvious efforts to pull himself together, and licking his dry lips before he spoke. "Who are these gentlemen whom you have brought with you?"

"One is Mr. Harris, of Bermondsey,[96] and the other is Mr. Price, of this town," said our clerk, glibly. "They are friends of mine and gentlemen of experience, but they have been out of a place for some little time, and they hoped that perhaps you might find an opening for them in the company's employment."

"Very possibly! Very possibly!" cried Mr. Pinner with a ghastly smile. "Yes, I have no doubt that we shall be able to do something for you. What is your particular line, Mr. Harris?"

"I am an accountant," said Holmes.

"Ah yes, we shall want something of the sort. And you, Mr. Price?"

"A clerk," said I.

"I have every hope that the company may accommodate you. I will let you know about it as soon as we come to any conclusion. And now I beg that you will go. For God's sake leave me to myself!"

These last words were shot out of him, as though the constraint which he was evidently setting upon himself had suddenly and utterly burst asunder. Holmes and I glanced at each other, and Hall Pycroft took a step towards the table.

"You forget, Mr. Pinner, that I am here by appointment to receive some directions from you," said he.

"Certainly, Mr. Pycroft, certainly," the other resumed in a calmer tone. "You may wait here a moment; and there is no reason why your friends should not wait with you. I will be entirely at your service in three minutes, if I might trespass upon your patience so far." He rose with a very courteous air, and, bowing to us, he passed out through a door at the farther end of the room, which he closed behind him.

"What now?" whispered Holmes. "Is he giving us the slip?"

"Impossible," answered Pycroft.

"Why so?"

"That door leads into an inner room."

"There is no exit?"

"None."

"Is it furnished?"

"It was empty yesterday."

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[96] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 81, n. 47; WBG, p. 2:162, n. 17.

"Then what on earth can he be doing? There is something which I don't understand in this manner. If ever a man was three parts mad with terror, that man's name is Pinner. What can have put the shivers on him?"

"He suspects that we are detectives," I suggested.

"That's it," cried Pycroft.

Holmes shook his head. "He did not turn pale. He was pale when we entered the room," said he. "It is just possible that —"

His words were interrupted by a sharp rat-tat from the direction of the inner door.

"What the deuce is he knocking at his own door for?" cried the clerk.

Again and much louder came the rat-tat-tat. We all gazed expectantly at the closed door. Glancing at Holmes, I saw his face turn rigid, and he leaned forward in intense excitement. Then suddenly came a low guggling, gargling sound, and a brisk drumming upon woodwork. Holmes sprang frantically across the room and pushed at the door. It was fastened on the inner side. Following his example, we threw ourselves upon it with all our weight. One hinge snapped, then the other, and down came the door with a crash. Rushing over it, we found ourselves in the inner room. It was empty.[97]

But it was only for a moment that we were at fault. At one corner, the corner nearest the room which we had left, there was a second door. Holmes sprang to it and pulled it open. A coat and waistcoat were lying on the floor, and from a hook behind the door, with his own braces[98] round his neck, was hanging the managing director of the Franco-Midland Hardware Company.

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[97] MAX MAGEE: Of course, in a radio adaptation such as the BBC's, the action needs to be described, so Holmes here shouts, "The door's barred, we'll have to break it down! one, two …"; and a crash and splinter of wood sound effect follows. In the next scene, the adaptation ratchets up the drama, with the elastic bands being not only wrapped, but knotted around, and cutting into, Pinner's neck; Holmes then lends his knife to Watson and he severs the straps. Watson then, instead of pouring water over the face of a man who is struggling to breathe, tries to get Pinner to drink a sip of the water, and he has him lie still and covers him with a coat (rather than dousing someone at risk of shock with cold water and flapping his arms).

[98] STEVE MASON: *Bretelles*, or suspenders, emerged as an accessory for men in France in the 1700s. They were made from silk ribbon, and came in a variety of colors and patterns. British tailor Albert Thurston is credited with the invention of the modern suspenders in the 1820s. These were made with straps of boxcloth, a tightly woven cloth, and leather loops attached to buttons sewn to the inside of a gentleman's trousers. The two straps of material were customarily crossed in the back (in an 'x' or a 'y' pattern) to keep the cloth from sliding off a man's shoulders. These suspenders were also made from elastic material to be more adaptable to men's sizes. In Victorian England, a "brace" was defined as a pair or couple of items, thus a pair of suspenders was known as "braces." Interestingly, in Victorian times, braces were considered to be an undergarment, never to be seen in public. As a staple of every wardrobe in a man's closet throughout the 1920s, braces lost favor during the 1930s as the waistcoats that would cover the braces was infrequently worn. Men switched to belts to keep from exposing their intimate apparel to the public, which in turn lowered the popularity of braces.

His knees were drawn up, his head hung at a dreadful angle to his body, and the clatter of his heels against the door made the noise which had broken in upon our conversation. In an instant I had caught him round the waist, and held him up while Holmes and Pycroft untied the elastic bands which had disappeared between the livid creases of skin. Then we carried him into the other room, where he lay with a clay-colored face,[99] puffing his purple lips in and out with every breath — a dreadful wreck of all that he had been but five minutes before.

"What do you think of him, Watson?" asked Holmes.

I stooped over him and examined him. His pulse was feeble and intermittent, but his breathing grew longer, and there was a little shivering of his eyelids, which showed a thin white slit of ball beneath.

"It has been touch and go with him," said I, "but he'll live now. Just open that window, and hand me the water carafe." I undid his collar, poured the cold water over his face, and raised and sank his arms until he drew a long, natural breath.[100]

"It's only a question of time now," said I, as I turned away from him.

Holmes stood by the table, with his hands deep in his trousers pockets and his chin upon his breast.

"I suppose we ought to call the police in now," said he. "And yet I confess that I'd like to give them a complete case when they come."

"It's a blessed mystery to me," cried Pycroft, scratching his head. "Whatever they wanted to bring me all the way up here for, and then —"

"Pooh! All that is clear enough," said Holmes impatiently. "It is this last sudden move."

"You understand the rest, then?"

"I think that it is fairly obvious. What do you say, Watson?"

I shrugged my shoulders. "I must confess that I am out of my depths," said I.

"Oh surely if you consider the events at first they can only point to one conclusion."

"What do you make of them?"

"Well, the whole thing hinges upon two points. The first is the making of Pycroft write a declaration by which he entered the service of this preposterous company. Do you not see how very suggestive that is?"

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[99] OSH: Memoirs, p. 291.

[100] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 82, n. 48; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 494, n. 32. MAX MAGEE: This was an early form of CPR or chest compressions akin to what was called the "natural method" by physician Henry Silvester, in which the raising of the arms opened the rib cage and encouraged intake of air, then quickly crossing the arms back down over the chest would cause air to be expelled.

"I am afraid I miss the point."

"Well, why did they want him to do it? Not as a business matter, for these arrangements are usually verbal, and there was no earthly business reason why this should be an exception.[101] Don't you see, my young friend, that they were very anxious to obtain a specimen of your handwriting, and had no other way of doing it?"

"And why?"

"Quite so. Why? When we answer that we have made some progress with our little problem. Why? There can be only one adequate reason. Some one wanted to learn to imitate your writing, and had to procure a specimen of it first. And now if we pass on to the second point we find that each throws light upon the other. That point is the request made by Pinner that you should not resign your place, but should leave the manager of this important business in the full expectation that a Mr. Hall Pycroft, whom he had never seen, was about to enter the office upon the Monday morning."

"My God!" cried our client, "what a blind beetle I have been!"

"Now you see the point about the handwriting. Suppose that some one turned up in your place who wrote a completely different hand from that in which you had applied for the vacancy, of course the game would have been up. But in the interval the rogue had learned to imitate you, and his position was therefore secure, as I presume that nobody in the office had ever set eyes upon you."

"Not a soul," groaned Hall Pycroft.

"Very good. Of course it was of the utmost importance to prevent you from thinking better of it, and also to keep you from coming into contact with any one who might tell you that your double was at work in Mawson's office. Therefore they gave you a handsome advance on your salary, and ran you off to the Midlands, where they gave you enough work to do to prevent your going to London, where you might have burst their little game up. That is all plain enough."

"But why should this man pretend to be his own brother?"

"Well, that is pretty clear also. There are evidently only two of them in it. The other is impersonating you at the office. This one acted as your engager, and then found that he could not find you an employer without admitting a third person into his plot. That he was most unwilling to do. He changed his appearance as far as he could, and trusted that the likeness, which you could not fail to observe, would be put down to a family resemblance. But

[101] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 83, n. 49.

for the happy chance of the gold stuffing, your suspicions would probably never have been aroused."

Hall Pycroft shook his clinched hands in the air. "Good Lord!" he cried, "while I have been fooled in this way, what has this other Hall Pycroft been doing at Mawson's? What should we do, Mr. Holmes? Tell me what to do."

"We must wire to Mawson's."

"They shut at twelve on Saturdays."[102]

"Never mind. There may be some door-keeper or attendant —"

"Ah yes, they keep a permanent guard there on account of the value of the securities that they hold. I remember hearing it talked of in the City."

"Very good; we shall wire to him, and see if all is well, and if a clerk of your name is working there. That is clear enough; but what is not so clear is why at sight of us one of the rogues should instantly walk out of the room and hang himself."

"The paper!" croaked a voice behind us. The man was sitting up, blanched and ghastly, with returning reason in his eyes, and hands which rubbed nervously at the broad red band which still encircled his throat.

"The paper! Of course!" yelled Holmes, in a paroxysm of excitement. "Idiot that I was! I thought so much of our visit that the paper never entered my head for an instant. To be sure, the secret must be there." He flattened it out upon the table, and a cry of triumph burst from his lips. "Look at this, Watson," he cried. "It is a London paper, an early edition of the *Evening Standard*.[103] Here is what we want. Look at the headlines: 'Crime in the City. Murder at Mawson & Williams's. Gigantic attempted Robbery. Capture of the Criminal.' Here, Watson, we are all equally anxious to hear it, so kindly read it aloud to us."

It appeared from its position in the paper to have been the one event of importance in town, and the account of it ran in this way:

"A desperate attempt at robbery, culminating in the death of one man and the capture of the criminal, occurred this afternoon in the City. For some time back Mawson & Williams, the famous financial house, have been the guardians of securities which amount in the aggregate to a sum of considerably over a million sterling. So conscious was the manager of the responsibility which devolved upon him in consequence of the great interests

[102] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 84 n. 50.
[103] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 84, n. 51; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 497, n. 33; OSH: Memoirs, p. 291; WBG, p. 2:165, n. 18.

at stake that safes of the very latest construction have been employed,[104] and an armed watchman has been left day and night in the building.[105] It appears that last week a new clerk named Hall Pycroft was engaged by the firm.[106] This person appears to have been none other than Beddington, the famous forger and cracksman,[107] who, with his brother, had only recently emerged from a five years' spell of penal servitude.[108] By some means, which are not yet clear, he succeeded in winning, under a false name, this official position in the office, which he utilized in order to obtain moulding of various locks, and a thorough knowledge of the position of the strong room and the safes.

"It is customary at Mawson's for the clerks to leave at midday on Saturday. Sergeant Tuson,[109] of the City Police,[110] was somewhat surprised, therefore to see a gentleman with a carpet bag come down the steps at twenty minutes past one. His suspicions being aroused, the sergeant followed the man, and with the aid of Constable Pollock succeeded, after a most desperate resistance, in arresting him. It was at once clear that a daring and gigantic robbery had been committed. Nearly a hundred thousand pounds' worth of American railway bonds, with a large amount of scrip[111] in mines and other companies,[112] was discovered in the bag. On examining the premises the body of the unfortunate watchman was found doubled up and thrust into the largest of the safes, where it would not have been discovered until Monday morning had it not been for the prompt action of Sergeant Tuson. The man's skull had been shattered by a blow from a poker delivered from behind. There could be no doubt that Beddington had obtained entrance by pre-

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[104] THE EDITORS: During this period, "safes of the very latest construction" were likely manufactured by the firm of Chubb & Son. See note 106 by Ross Davies in the annotated "The Reigate Puzzle" in the 2016 *Green Bag Almanac and Reader*.

[105] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 84, n. 52.

[106] LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 497, n. 34.

[107] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 85, n. 53; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 497, n. 35; OSH: Memoirs, p. 291.

[108] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 85, n. 54.

[109] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 85, n. 55; WBG, p. 2:165, n. 19.

[110] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 85, n. 56; OSH: Memoirs, p. 291.

[111] LSK, Ref: Memoirs, p. 85, n. 57; LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 499, n. 36.

[112] JONATHAN TIEMANN: As London was the hub of the global capital market, and Britons at the height of the Empire were accustomed to drawing wealth from all over the world, a large trading house might well hold a large quantity of these securities. Most bonds in the era were to bearer, and scrip was typically a bearer instrument as well. Mawson's could have been holding these securities for safekeeping, as a service to their customers. They may also have been holding some of the securities pending settlement of earlier trades. A customer selling, say, an American railway bond, might well have brought it in to Mawson's, who would hold it until a pre-arranged date, at which the various dealers in the City would gather to settle recent trades by exchanging securities and payments. Until that date, the securities would rest in the dealers' safes. But because they were bearer securities, the thieves robbing Mawson's might well have been able to realize on them, had they been able to stay ahead of the law — and Sherlock Holmes.

tending that he had left something behind him, and having murdered the watchman, rapidly rifled the large safe, and then made off with his booty. His brother, who usually works with him, has not appeared in this job as far as can at present be ascertained, although the police are making energetic inquiries as to his whereabouts."

"Well, we may save the police some little trouble in that direction," said Holmes, glancing at the haggard figure huddled up by the window. "Human nature is a strange mixture, Watson. You see that even a villain and murderer can inspire such affection[113] that his brother turns to suicide when he learns that his neck is forfeited.[114] However, we have no choice as to our action.[115] The doctor and I will remain on guard, Mr. Pycroft, if you will have the kindness to step out for the police."

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[113] OSH: Memoirs, p. 291.

[114] RICH KRISCIUNAS: When Arthur Pinner read about his brother Beddington's arrest for robbery and murder, he realized that their days were numbered. The Accessories and Abettors Act 1861 provided that "Whosoever shall aid, abet, counsel, or procure the commission of any indictable offence …, shall be liable to be tried, indicted, and punished as a principal offender." But for Pinner's role in obtaining a false identity for Beddington, he would never have been able to impersonate Hall Pycroft and gain access to the stock-broker's office on the day of the robbery. After Beddington killed the security guard, Pinner, as an aider and abettor, was also guilty of murder and would face the same penalty as Beddington, death by hanging, even though Pinner was miles away when the murder occurred.

[115] LSK, 1 New Ann., p. 500, n. 37.

## An Invitation to Annotate

*Ira Brad Matetsky*

With this year's new annotated edition of "The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk," this *Almanac* and its predecessor have now annotated one-tenth 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," "The Priory School," and "The Stockbroker's Clerk" (in *The Baker Street Almanac* for 2020, 2021, and 2022). 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 2024 will feature a new annotated edition of "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet." 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 Septber 1, 2023.

*"Annotate if convenient — if inconvenient, annotate all the same."*

# How Watson Learned the Trick

*by A. Conan Doyle*

*An Illustrated, Annotated, Partial Manuscript Edition*

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# How Watson Learned the Trick

## An Illustrated, Annotated, Partial Manuscript Edition

*Arthur Conan Doyle,*[1]
*with illustrations by Madeline Quiñones*[2]
*and commentary and annotations by Ross E. Davies*[3]

## Introduction

This year we have an after-dinner mint to follow Ira Brad Matetsky's main course[4] of Sherlockian annotation. At about 500 words, *How Watson Learned the Trick* (*HOWW* for short) is puny when compared to Arthur Conan Doyle's typical Holmes-and-Watson adventures, which tend to run 7,000 to 10,000 words. But the story of how *HOWW* came to be written, and how it has been treated since, is probably worthy of longer treatment than many of those typical tales. We will, however, try to keep it short.

The story begins on August 29, 1922, when Princess Marie Louise — a cousin of Mary, Queen of the United Kingdom, etc. — wrote a letter to Doyle:

> Dear Sir Arthur
>
> You have doubtless heard that a number of artists, authors, craftsmen and others have conspired to present to the Queen a Doll's House or model residence in miniature, in which everything that one would find in a King's Palace today is reproduced with minute accuracy so that it will have a great historical value in the future.
>
> For the Library little books in the autograph of their writers are being prepared and will be specially bound.
>
> May I ask if you will be so good as to contribute one of these; either something already published which I would ask you to be so kind as to copy out, or preferably something original? I enclose a small blank book for the purpose.
>
> Believe me
> Yours sincerely
> Marie Louise[5]

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[1] Arthur Conan Doyle wrote *How Watson Learned the Trick*, 61 other Sherlock Holmes stories, and much else, and did many other things, from surgery to whaling to proselytizing for the spirit world.
[2] Madeline Quiñones is a founder and host of *Dynamics of a Podcast*, https://dynamicsofapodcast.com/.
[3] Ross E. Davies is an editor of the *Green Bag*.
[4] Read *The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk*, freshly annotated, on pages 285-313 above.
[5] Letter from Marie Louise to Arthur Conan Doyle (August 29, 1922), in Arthur Conan Doyle Papers, Add MS 88924/1/47, British Library (General correspondence to Arthur Conan Doyle (1921-1930)); *see also* Richard Lancelyn Green, The Uncollected Sherlock Holmes 154 & n.285 (Penguin Books, 1983)

Her Highness Princess Marie Louise (April 22, 1920).
Photograph courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London (NPG x81123).

Doyle complied. He wrote "something original" — *HOWW* — on 34 of the pages in the tiny (1.5 inches high by 1.25 inches wide) blank booklet provided by the princess.

The exact date on which he completed that little project is not known, but a thank-you note sent by Princess Marie Louise on September 4, 1922 — six days after she sent her request — suggests he moved quickly:

> Dear Sir Arthur —
>
> Please accept my sincere thanks for your kind response to my request for a contribution to the Royal Library in Her Majesty's Doll's House.
>
> Your very delightful novelette is a most valuable addition to the bookshelves all the more because it is unpublished.

(hereafter "Green, *Uncollected*") (quoting the August 29 letter from Marie Louise to Doyle and citing to Scrapbook 1, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Foundation, Lausanne).

Again thanking you many times

Yours sincerely
Marie Louise[6]

The means of delivery also seems pretty clear: Doyle himself carried it to Edward Lutyens, the architect who designed the Queen's Dolls' House and oversaw the whole project. Lucinda Lambton, author of an authorized history of the Queen's Dolls' House, wrote, in an article promoting her book:

> The elite of the nation's talent poured through the door [of the Lutyens family residence on Mansfield Street in London, where the Dolls' House was built in the drawing room during 1922-1924] … . Ursula Ridley, Lutyens's favourite daughter, told me, her eyes alight with delight, of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) arriving with his diminutive, hand-written and leather-bound story *How Watson Learned the Trick*.[7]

Ridley or Lambton might be painting the lily here. The booklets were bound in leather *after* authors returned them.[8] Sangorski & Sutcliffe did *HOWW*.[9] Doyle's visit to Lutyens must've occurred before April or after mid-August 1923, since he was traveling to, through, and from North America then.[10]

Scores of other authors and publishers also contributed books to the library in the Queen's Dolls' House. Other specialists provided tiny versions of much else that belonged in the finest of libraries: walnut paneling and shelving thoughout, art on the walls, furniture wrapped in leather and resting on Persian rugs, floor-standing celestial and terrestrial globes, and on and on. (Experts in other fields did the same for other rooms, from the kitchen stocked with a panoply of pots and pans and ingredients, to the underground garage housing a fleet of automobiles.) The result was a tiny yet grand book room — 45 inches wide by 21 inches deep by 15.5 inches high (built to a scale, like the rest of the house, of one inch to one foot) — furnished in a style and supplied in a manner suitable for a British monarch.[11]

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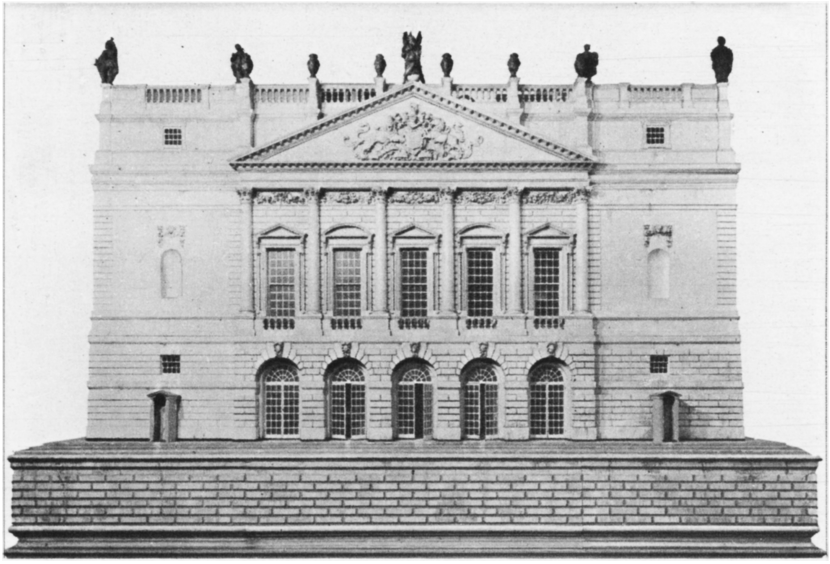
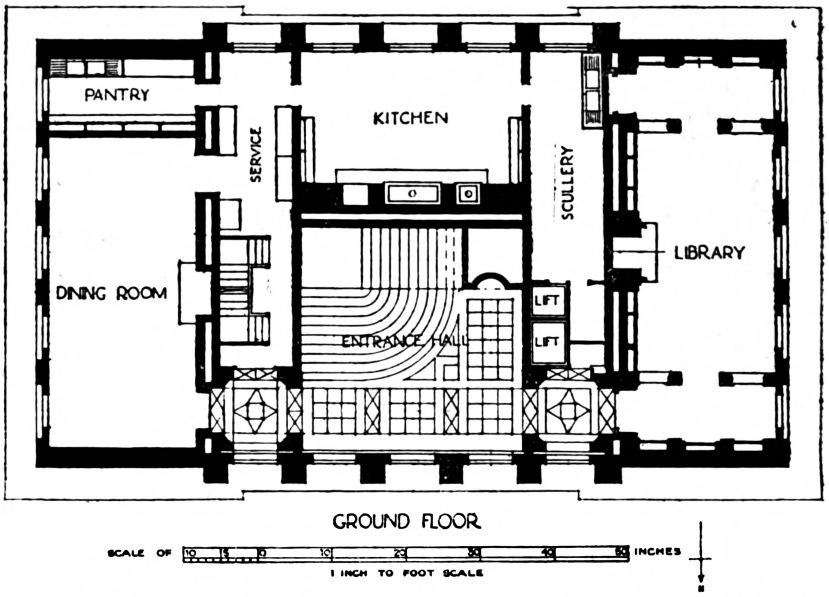
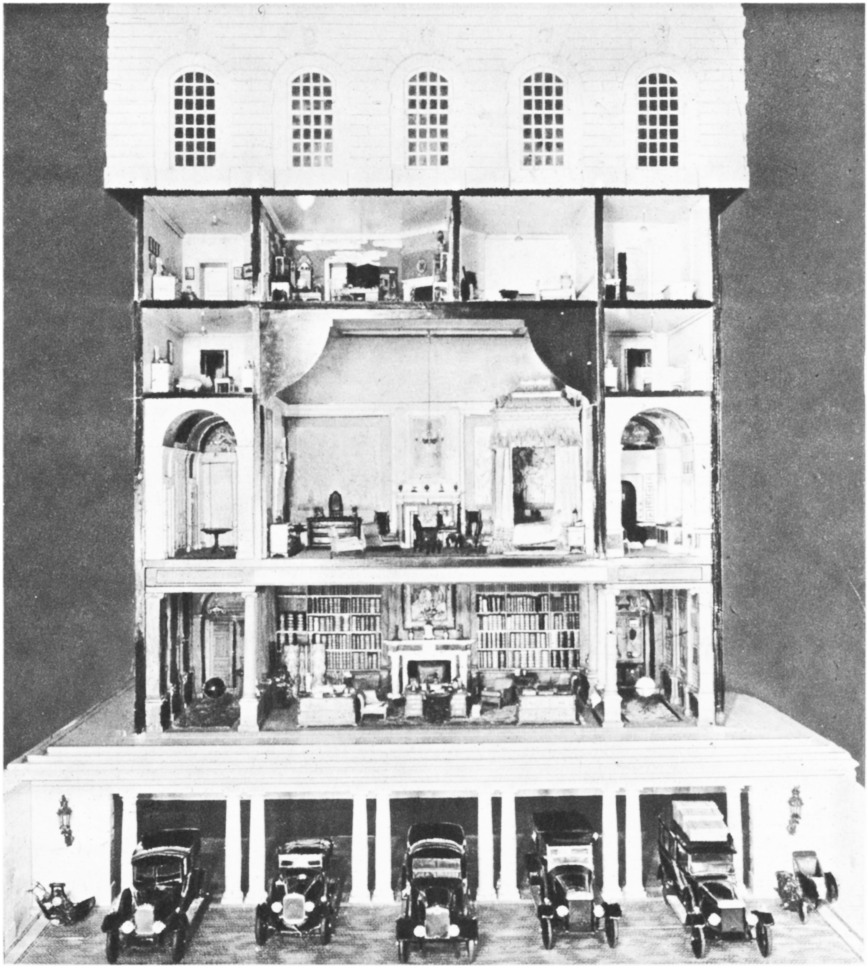
[6] Letter from Marie Louise to Arthur Conan Doyle (September 4, 1922), in General correspondence to Arthur Conan Doyle (1921-1930), Add MS 88924/1/47, Arthur Conan Doyle Papers, British Library.
[7] Lucinda Lambton, Illusions of grandeur, The Daily Telegraph, mag. section 62, 69 (Oct. 16, 2010).
[8] E.V. Lucas, ed., The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House (volume 2): The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House Library viii (Methuen & Co., 1924) (hereafter "Lucas, *The Book, vol. 2*"); Lucinda Lambton, The Queen's Dolls' House 97 (Royal Collections Publications, 2010).
[9] Green, *Uncollected*, at 154; *see also* footnote 5 and accompanying text (above) and Appendix C (below).
[10] Brian W. Pugh, A Chronology of the Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (fourth edition) 179-182 (MX Publishing, 2018).
[11] Stephen Gaselee, The Library (hereafter "Gaselee, *Library*"), in A.C. Benson and Sir Lawrence Weaver, eds., The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House (volume 1) 67 (Methuen & Co., 1924) (hereafter "Benson and Weaver, *The Book, vol. 1*").



Above: The north elevation (that is, the front, which is about 8.5 feet wide by 5 feet high) of the Queen's Dolls' House. The library is on the ground floor, right side. Below: A floor plan of the ground floor of the Queen's Dolls' House, showing the library on the right side.

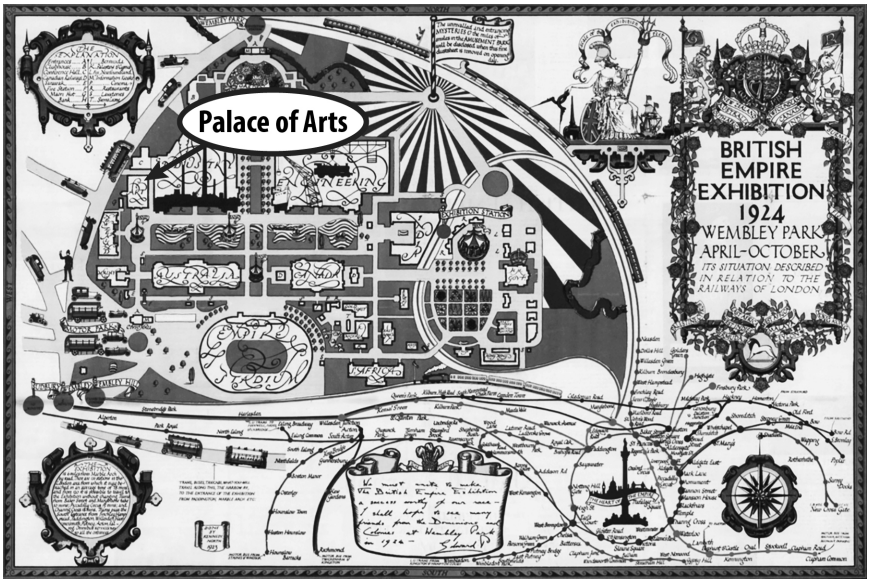




The west elevation (that is, the right side) of the Queen's Dolls' House, with the external wall raised to show the library on the ground floor.

When the Dolls' House was completed in early 1924, it was displayed to the Royals and the press, prompting much enthusiastic commentary, including mentions of "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (who writes on 'How Watson Learned the Trick')."[12] It was then packed up and carted ten miles northwest

[12] W.N. Walters, World's Most Wonderful House, Leicester Mercury 8 (January 11, 1924); Queen's Dolls' House, The (Lahore) Civil & Military Gazette 11 (February 7, 1924).



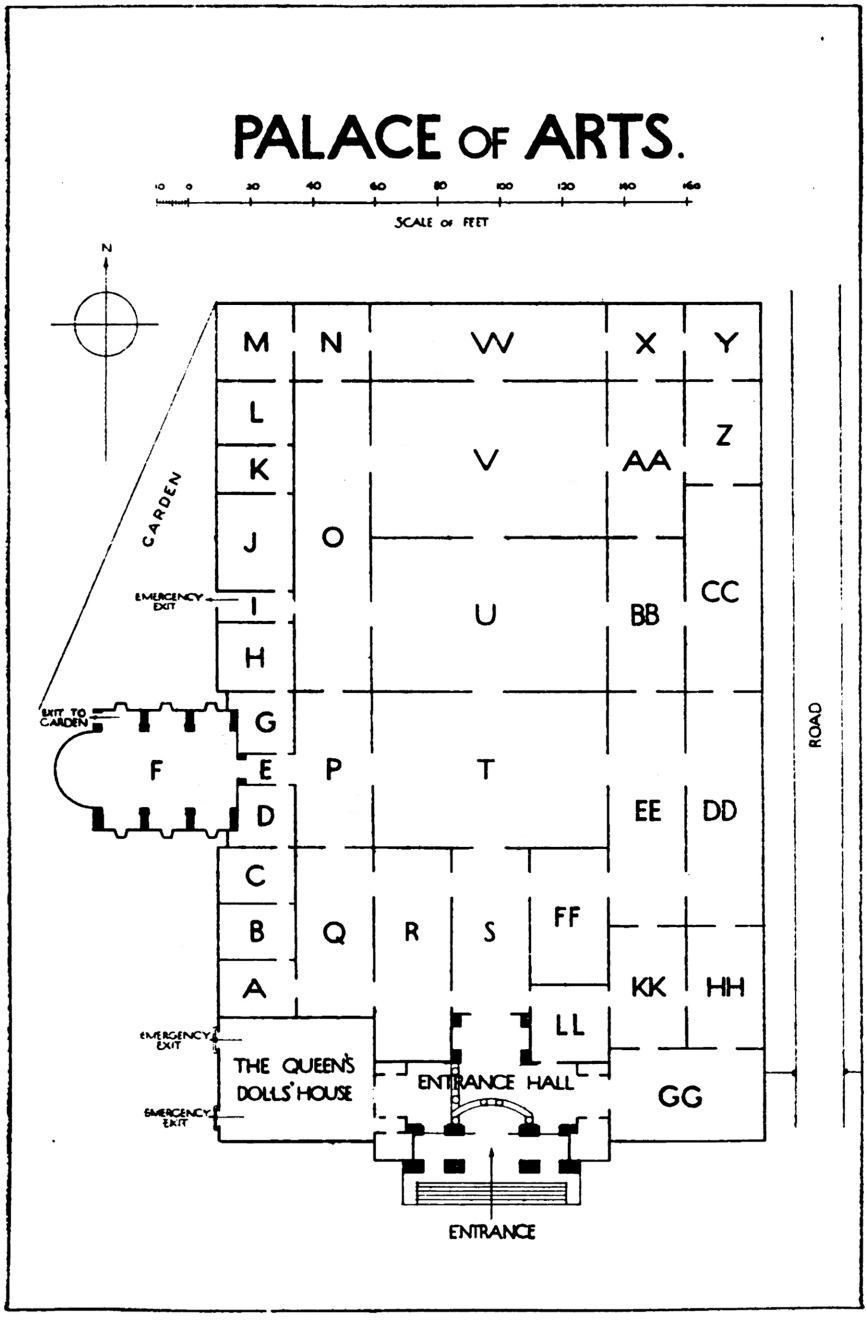

Map of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, with the Palace of Arts marked.

from Mansfield Street to Wembley Park, site of the British Empire Exhibition, which was to run from April to November in 1924 and May to October in 1925. It was reassembled and ensconced in a special room in the Palace of Arts building for the exhibition's entire 1924 season. From there the Doll's House moved 20 miles west and south to Windsor Castle for the winter. It did not return to the Empire Exhibition in 1925, but instead traveled 20 miles due east in March to set up for the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition at the Olympia exhibition center in Kensington.[13] After that it returned to Windsor Castle and never left again. It remains a popular tourist attraction there today.[14]

So, we know — roughly, at least — the path taken by *HOWW* from its creation to its current location. There are not a lot of steps, and not a lot of miles (fewer than 100 in total): from Doyle to Lutyens (on Mansfield Street) to Sangorski & Sutcliffe (just a few blocks away on Poland Street), then back to Lutyens (and onto a shelf in the library) and then to the Palace of Arts

[13] Notes from Here and There, The Tatler xviii (February 11, 1925); Exhibitions, The (London) Sunday Mirror 10 (March 1, 1925).

[14] Mary Stewart-Wilson, Queen Mary's Dolls' House 16 (Abbeville Press, 1988); Case Study: Queen Mary's Dolls' House, Royal Collection Trust, https://www.rct.uk/collection/conservation/queen-marys-dolls-house.




Floor plan of the Palace of Arts. The Queen's Dolls' House is in the southwest corner.

at the British Empire Exhibition (in Wembley) and from there to Windsor Castle (about 20 miles west of London) for the winter, before a final excursion to the Ideal Home Exhibition (in Kensington) and back to Windsor Castle — all within the space of a couple of years in the 1920s. Followed by nearly a century of the quiet life in the same little room in the same little house in the same big castle.

## The Adventure of the Three Publications

The Queen's Dolls' House was really two projects in one. There was the small-scale construction, furnishing, and decoration project. And there was the full-scale publication project.

Back in early 1924, when the Queen's Dolls' House was grandly unveiled, publication plans for *The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House* — a big, two-volume descriptive and illustrated companion to the little residence — were also announced. As the *Grantham Journal* reported on January 26, 1924:

> Few people have seen [the Dolls' House yet,] but the Queen herself. But something of the wonder of it may be gathered from the prospectus of two beautiful volumes about it which Messrs. Methuen [the publisher] are preparing. They are the property of the Queen, who will distribute the proceeds as she sees fit. A limited number of copies will be made, and each volume will be priced at three guineas.
>
> The first will deal with the house itself, while the second, edited by Mr. E.V. Lucas, will be given up to the description of the library alone. To this library more than 170 authors have contributed tiny, exquisitely-bound volumes, written, most of them, specially for this, and in the authors' own handwriting. There are works by Sir James Barrie (an autobiography), Mr. Arnold Bennett, Mr. W.J. Locke, Sir Anthony Hope, Sir A. Conan Doyle, Mr. Joseph Conrad, Mr. G.K. Chesterton, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Robert Bridges, Mr. Laurence Binyon, Mr. Walter de la Mere, Mr. Drinkwater, Mr. Thomas Hardy, and Mr. Max Beerbohm — to mention a few. Mr. Rudyard Kipling has selected some of his poems, and illustrated them with drawings.
>
> There are reference books, too — "Who's Who?" and "Whitaker's Almanack," reproduced in miniature by photography — and the stock of stationery includes a specially-printed book of stamps.
>
> The first of the two volumes, to be published by Methuen, which is edited by Mr. A.C. Benson and Sir Lawrence Weaver, describes the rest of the house, and reproduces many of the tiny

> paintings and drawings by 600 famous artists which hang on the walls of the house or in special cabinets.
>
> The book, which will be called "The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House," will be issued at about the time of the opening of the [British Empire] Exhibition.[15]

In fact, the publishing program was even more elaborate. There were to be three different books of the Queen's Dolls' House, all published in 1924:

• *The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House*: The long (249 pages plus 92 plates, and 384 pages plus 24 plates), large, lavishly illustrated, exceedingly expensive (three pounds, three shillings per volume), and limited (to 1,500 copies) two-volume set.

• *Everybody's Book of the Queen's Dolls' House*: A condensed (160 pages plus 24 plates), smaller but still substantial, generously illustrated, and more affordable (five shillings) one-volume abridgment, also published by Methuen (with *The Daily Telegraph*). It consists mostly of excerpts from the two-volume edition, with considerable introductory and interstitial commentary by the abridger.

• *Souvenir Book of the of the Queen's Dolls' House*: A short (72 pages), small, lightly illustrated, and cheap (two shillings) pamphlet edition, published by Oxley and Son. It was simply a condensation of the *Everybody's* abridgement.

Volume two of *The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House* — the one devoted to the library — consists almost entirely of transcriptions of the little manuscript volumes (or at least parts of them) housed there. (A chapter in volume one addresses other features of the library.[16]) *HOWW* gets its fair share of attention. The entire story appears on pages 92 to 94, and a facsimile of one of the handwritten pages in the bound booklet is on a plate between pages 92 and 93. (See Appendix A below for all three pages and the plate.)

But *HOWW*'s place in the Dolls' House publication project ends there. Unlike many of Doyle's contemporaries and their works, Doyle and *HOWW* appear nowhere in the two condensed versions — *Everybody's* and *Souvenir*.

On the one hand, this is not terribly surprising. It is obvious from the page counts of the two condensed versions that massive cuts were required. Many great figures and great works had to be left out of *Everybody's*, and even more out of *Souvenir*, and they were. Doyle and *HOWW* just happened to be among the unlucky ones to end up on the editing room floor.

On the other hand, the exclusion of Doyle and *HOWW* is exceedingly strange. Because the person responsible for the initial condensation of *The*

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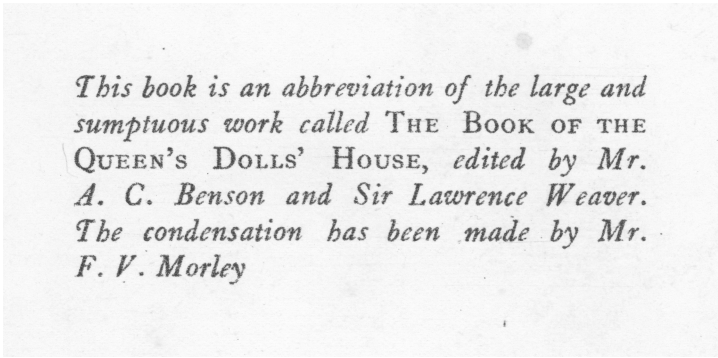
[15] Wonder Dolls' House, Grantham Journal 3 (January 26, 1924).
[16] Gaselee, *Library*, at 67-79.

*Book of the Queen's Dolls' House* into the *Everybody's* version was a serious Sherlockian. As *The Daily Mirror* reported in May 1924,

> The author who is responsible for the abridgment of the two-volume "Book of the Queen's Doll's House" is one of the many Americans who have settled down in London to make or improve a literary reputation. He is Mr. F.V. Morley, a brother of Mr. Christopher Morley, until lately literary editor of the New York *Evening Post*.[17]

And, indeed, while the title page of *Everybody's* identifies A.C. Benson and Sir Lawrence Weaver as the editors (just as the title page of the first volume of the big *Book of the Queen's Dolls' House* does), the next page in *Everybody's* carries this simple announcement:



*This book is an abbreviation of the large and sumptuous work called* THE BOOK OF THE QUEEN'S DOLLS' HOUSE, *edited by Mr. A. C. Benson and Sir Lawrence Weaver. The condensation has been made by Mr. F. V. Morley*

As younger brothers of Christopher Morley, Felix Muskett Morley and Frank Vigor Morley (aka F.V. Morley) were from early childhood indoctrinated in the wonders of Sherlockian literature. Frank was, as Harrison and Linda Hunt put it, "the least active [of the three Morley brothers] with the Baker Street Irregulars. … But as the creator of the Sherlockian crossword puzzle [the original test for membership in the BSI] in 1934, he earned himself an honored place in the history of the Irregulars." Moreover, as the Hunts point out, Frank's interest in Sherlock Holmes went beyond the BSI. While he attended just one of that organization's dinner meetings, he was more active in the original (and, alas, short-lived) Sherlock Holmes Society in London during the 1930s.[18]

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[17] To-day's Gossip, The (London) Daily Mirror 9 (May 28, 1924).

[18] Harrison Hunt and Linda Hunt, Aboriginals: The Earliest Baker Street Irregulars 8, 18, 20 (Baker Street Irregulars Press, 2019).

Why, then, did Frank exclude Doyle and *HOWW* from *Everybody's*, while preserving places for, among others, A.S.M. Hutchinson, Edith Wharton, Rudyard Kipling, Thomas Hardy, Anthony Hope, Joseph Conrad, J.M. Barrie, Henry Arthur Jones, Alfred Sutro, Oscar Browning, William Henry Davies, W.H. Mallock, Robert Bridges, G.K. Chesterton, Clemence Dane, May Sinclair, Maurice Hewlett, and Owen Wister?[19] I do not know.

Meanwhile, other American editors, on the other side of the Atlantic, were showing Doyle and *HOWW* more respect. The August 24, 1924 *New York Times* included a full-page feature about the Queen's Dolls' House library, under this headline: "Queen's Dolls Have Priceless Library: 200 British Authors Write Tiny Volumes for Queen Mary's House — Barrie Pens His Life — Kipling Illustrates Poems — New Sherlock Holmes Story."[20] Among the items on the page is a complete transcription of *HOWW*. So, in the United Kingdom, the only people who got to read *HOWW* were the wealthy few who could afford the £6/6 for the massive, limited-edition *Book of the Queen's Dolls' House* (and get their hands on it), while in the United States, anyone who had 5¢ to spare for the *Times* ("In Manhattan, Bronx and Brooklyn"; 10¢ "Elsewhere") could read *HOWW*.[21] That's literary democracy for ya! (See Appendix B below for the *Times*'s edition of *HOWW*.)

The end of the story of the three versions of the *Book of the Queen's Dolls' House* contains a slightly sad and perverse dose of justice. The cheap third and final version — *Souvenir* — contains no new substantive editorial content. The publisher relied heavily on Morley's introductory and interstitial commentary from *Everyone's*, preserving nearly every word of it, while cutting down sharply on the remaining material Morley had extracted and abridged from the big original two-volume version. But the publisher of *Souvenir* left out any mention of Morley's name or role, depriving him of credit in what was surely the most widely owned and read version of his work. This was harsher, fouler treatment than Doyle had received at Morley's hands in *Everyone's*, certainly, but it was not entirely different either.

In the summer of 1924, then, while innumerable ordinary Americans were reading *HOWW*, only a few rich Britons had the privilege. But the original miniature book, and the story written on its pages, were still among the English, in the Queen's Dolls' House library. Which brings us to the story itself …

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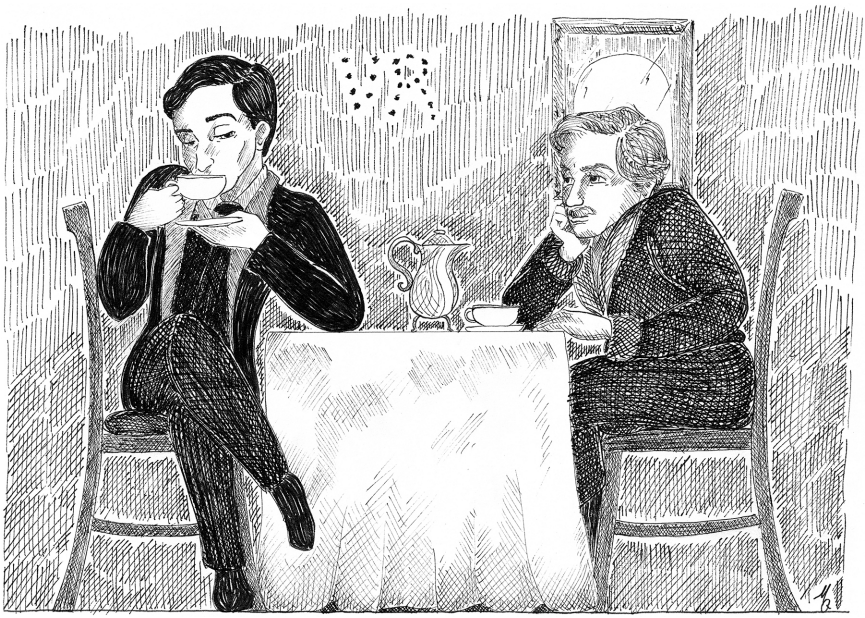
[19] A.C. Benson and Sir Lawrence Weaver, eds., Everybody's Book of the Queen's Dolls' House 24, 55, 140, 145, 146, 154, 155 (The Daily Telegraph and Methuen & Co., 1924) (hereafter "Benson and Weaver, *Everybody's*").
[20] New York Times (section 8) 3 (August 24, 1924).
[21] New York Times 1 (August 24, 1924).



# How Watson Learned the Trick

*Sir A. Conan Doyle*[22]

Watson had been watching his companion intently ever since he had sat down to the breakfast table.[23] Holmes happened to look up and catch his eye.

"Well, Watson, what are you thinking about?" he asked.

"About you."

"Me?"

"Yes, Holmes. I was thinking how superficial are these tricks of yours, and how wonderful it is that the public should continue to show interest in them."

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[22] With illustration copyright 2023 by Madeline Quiñones.

[23] Watson sat down sometime between late 1896 and late 1902. Leslie S. Klinger, ed., The Apocrypha of Sherlock Holmes 39 n.85 (Gasogene Books, 2009) (hereafter "Klinger, *Apocrypha*"). All things considered, it was almost certainly on June 4, 1902. Chronologically speaking, that would be shortly after *The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place* and shortly before *The Adventure of the Three Garridebs*. Ross E. Davies, When Watson Learned the Trick, 69 Baker Street J. 26 et seq. (Summer 2019) (hereafter "Davies, *When*"); 30 Journal of the Cricket Society 13-15 (2021).

"I quite agree," said Holmes. "In fact, I have a recollection that I have myself made a similar remark."

"Your methods," said Watson severely, "are really easily acquired."

"No doubt," Holmes answered with a smile. "Perhaps you will yourself give an example of this method of reasoning."

"With pleasure," said Watson. "I am able to say that you were greatly preoccupied when you got up this morning."

"Excellent!" said Holmes. "How could you possibly know that?"

"Because you are usually a very tidy man and yet you have forgotten to shave."

"Dear me! How very clever!" said Holmes. "I had no idea, Watson, that you were so apt a pupil. Has your eagle eye detected anything more?"

"Yes, Holmes. You have a client named Barlow, and you have not been successful with his case."

"Dear me, how could you know that?"

"I saw the name outside his envelope. When you opened it you gave a groan and thrust it into your pocket with a frown on your face."

"Admirable! You are indeed observant. Any other points?"

"I fear, Holmes, that you have taken to financial speculation."

"How *could* you tell that, Watson?"

"You opened the paper,[24] turned to the financial page, and gave a loud exclamation of interest."

"Well, that is very clever of you, Watson. Any more?"

"Yes, Holmes, you have put on your black coat, instead of your dressing gown, which proves that you are expecting some important visitor at once."

"Anything more?"

"I have no doubt that I could find other points, Holmes, but I only give you these few, in order to show you that there are other people in the world who can be as clever as you."

"And some not so clever," said Holmes. "I admit that they are few, but I am afraid, my dear Watson, that I must count you among them."

"What do you mean, Holmes?"

"Well, my dear fellow, I fear your deductions have not been so happy as I should have wished."

"You mean that I was mistaken."

"Just a little that way, I fear. Let us take the points in their order: I did not shave because I have sent my razor to be sharpened.[25] I put on my coat

[24] Likely a June 4, 1902 edition of *The Times* (of London). Davies, *When*, at 28 & nn.9-11.

[25] Perhaps at H.P. Truefitt, Ltd., in the Burlington Arcade. Ross E. Davies, Where Watson Learned the Trick, Green Bag Single Sheet Classic #8 (2019).

because I have, worse luck, an early meeting with my dentist. His name is Barlow,[26] and the letter was to confirm the appointment.[27] The cricket page is beside the financial one, and I turned to it to find if Surrey[28] was holding its own against Kent.[29] But go on, Watson, go on! It's a very superficial trick, and no doubt you will soon acquire it."

## Afterword

Since its first appearances in print in 1924, *HOWW* has been republished several times. Now it is free to all on the internet. But the original is out of reach, not only because the Queen's Dolls' House library is not the lending kind, but also because even someone permitted to handle the booklet would not be permitted to open and read it. It is too fragile, as the Royal Collection Trust explained when asked about digitizing it:

> I regret to inform you that we are not able to photograph the "How Watson Learned the Trick" miniature book for you. The volume is very fragile and for this reason it is not possible to open it. The only pages that could be photographed are already on our website. Please accept my apologies that you have received such a disappointing response on this occasion.[30]

Facsimiles of some pages are available. One has been since 1924, when it was printed in volume two of *The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House*. In addition, more recent photographs taken of the front cover, the spine, the title page, and a few interior pages are viewable on the website of the Royal Collection Trust.[31] (See Appendix C below for all of them, in the ink-on-paper edition of this article only.)

But what of the other, unphotographed, practically unviewable pages? The seeming impossibility of digitizing them without damaging the book is a bit worrisome. What if something should happen to it? What if the whole Dolls' House and it contents were destroyed in some fiery or watery calamity? Or what if just the one little book were "thumbed away to annihilation" by

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[26] George William Barlow, L.D.S., R.C.S., was his full name. Davies, *When*, at 28-29, 32 & nn.13-21, 25. See also the toothbrush that might accompany the book you are reading now.
[27] Klinger, *Apocrypha*, at 39 n.84.
[28] Holmes was probably a fan of the Surrey County Cricket Club. Ross E. Davies, The Whole Art of Cricket Or, An Enthusiasm of Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock Holmes Review 63, 65-67 (2021).
[29] Klinger, *Apocrypha*, at 39 n.85; Davies, *When*, at 30-31 & nn.22-24.
[30] Email from Agata Rutkowska, Picture Library Assistant, Royal Collection Trust, to Ross E. Davies (January 8, 2019).
[31] How Watson learned the trick, Royal Collection Trust, https://www.rct.uk/collection/1171476/how-watson-learned-the-trick.

some innocently enthusiastic readers[32] or lost or stolen? Would we be left with no record of what, exactly, was on those pages?

That would be bad. But there are possible partial consolations. Three of them, at least.

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The first two consolations might apply to situations in which the *HOWW* booklet is destroyed or permanently lost. The best source on both of them is an essay by Randall Stock, an expert on Doyle manuscripts. In *How Watson Learned the Trick: A Conan Doyle Manuscript & Reproduction*, Stock reviews an intriguing effort to recreate the *HOWW* booklet (consolation #1), and also explains why there might be another handwritten version of *HOWW* that predates the booklet in the Queen's Dolls' House and might still be out in the world somewhere (consolation #2).[33]

First, the recreated *HOWW* booklet. In 2014, Walker Books published a miniature booklet version of *HOWW* — in the same dimensions as the original, with similar binding (but in fabric, not leather), and with the same story inside, in what appears to be Doyle's handwriting[34] — but it was not quite the same. As Stock explains,

> [I]n consultation with the Royal Collection, Walker Books scanned only enough pages [of the original booklet] to allow it to capture the letters needed to create a custom font based on Conan Doyle's handwriting.
>
> The result is a close approximation of the actual handwritten manuscript, but not a photographic facsimile. …
>
> Differences between the handwriting in the manuscript and the reproduction are typically minor. However, there are a few places where Conan Doyle used a variation that was not replicated. … Such differences are not important to the average Sherlockian, but researchers do need to be aware of this limitation.[35]

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[32] Gaselee, *Library*, at 69.

[33] Randall Stock, How Watson Learned the Trick: A Conan Doyle Manuscript & Reproduction, The Best of Sherlock Holmes (October 14, 2014) (hereafter "Stock, *Reproduction*"), http://bestofsherlock.com/ref/watson-trick-manuscript.htm#handwriting.

[34] Royal Collection Trust, Press Release: Miniature Sherlock Holmes book, written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for Queen Mary, to be re-created for the first time (September 2, 2014); Miniature Sherlock Holmes Book to Be Re-created for the First Time, Royal Collection Trust, https://www.rct.uk/about/news-and-features/miniature-sherlock-holmes-book-to-be-re-created-for-the-first-time#/.

[35] Stock, *Reproduction*.

So, there is a replica, of a sort, of the original *HOWW*. And it is available. You can buy it now, if you like, just in case.[36]

Replicas or near-replicas of some items on the shelves in the library were produced for sale back in the early days of the Dolls' House — for example, a Bradshaw's guide, a Stanford atlas, a railway timetable, and an issue of the *The Times* of London[37] — but I know of no evidence that *HOWW* or any of the other autograph manuscript volumes in the library received that sort of treatment.

Second, the possible predecessor of the Queen's *HOWW* booklet. Under the heading "Original Manuscript or Fair Copy," Stock observes that even for Doyle, who frequently produced nearly defect-free first drafts of his stories, writing an entirely defect-free first draft of *HOWW* — especially under the inconvenient constraint of the tiny pages in the booklet provided by Princess Marie Louise — would have been a highly improbable tour de force of authorial conception, narration, and penmanship. Odds are there was a first draft:

> It seems more likely that Conan Doyle drafted this story on full-size paper, and then copied out his final text onto the miniature blank pages. …
>
> If Conan Doyle did originally draft "How Watson Learned the Trick" on regular paper, the version in the dolls' house would be considered a "fair copy" (albeit still in Conan Doyle's own handwriting). However, there are no reports of a full-size version and thus it remains open for debate whether or not the miniature version is his original autograph manuscript.[38]

So, there may or may not be another handwritten-by-Doyle version of *HOWW* out there somewhere. If the only currently known autograph *HOWW* — the one in the Dolls' House library — were to go missing, this might offer some faint hope. The stronger sentiment, most likely, would be regret that a way was not found to photograph *HOWW*, back when it was in hand.

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[36] https://www.walker.co.uk/How-Watson-Learned-the-Trick-9781406345971.aspx.

[37] Compare Zoe Handy, Queen Mary's Dolls' House Miniatures, Dolls' Houses Past & Present (December 2021), https://www.dollshousespastandpresent.co.uk/Magazine/Issue-34-December-2021/Page-5, with Bradshaw's general railway and steam navigation guide for Great Britain and Ireland, Royal Collection Trust, https://www.rct.uk/collection/1171575/bradshaws-general-railway-and-steam-navigation-guide-for-great-britain-and; Stanford's atlas of the British Empire, Royal Collection Trust, https://www.rct.uk/collection/1171556/stanfords-atlas-of-the-british-empire; LMS time table [London, Midland and Scottish Railway], Royal Collection Trust, https://www.rct.uk/collection/1171563/lms-time-table-london-midland-and-scottish-railway; The Times, January 1 1924, Royal Collection Trust, https://www.rct.uk/collection/1171558/the-times-january-1-1924.

[38] Stock, *Reproduction*.

• • • •

And then there is the third possible consolation, which might apply to situations in which the *HOWW* booklet disappears, but is not necessarily lost forever. This is not an entirely hypothetical scenario. Once upon a time, another book in the Dolls' House library did go missing. The story of its discovery and return make for a heart-warming story about the integrity and generosity of a collector.

It seems that somehow, sometime between 1924 and 1973, a miniature book titled *Statesmen* — filled with autographs of the high and mighty, and present in the Dolls' House library in 1924[39] — found its way out of the Queen's Dolls' House and into the hands of someone who offered it in the "Other Properties" category of a Sotheby's auction in July 1973. The auction catalog entry reads as follows:

Other Properties

> 636 CHURCHILL (*Sir* WINSTON), J.C. SMUTS AND OTHERS. MINIATURE ALBUM OF QUEEN MARY, containing 39 signatures of British and Commonwealth statesmen; including Churchill; Lloyd George; Asquith, Baldwin; Balfour; Bonar Law; Neville Chamberlain; Milner; S.M. Bruce, Prime Minister of Australia; W. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada; and Jan Christiaan Smuts, *bookplate of Queen Mary, brown morocco gilt, cipher of Queen Mary on upper cover*, LETTERED *"Statesmen" on the spine, gilt-edged* 1½*ins.* by 1¼*ins.*[40]

A Mr. Sawyer won the auction at Sotheby's. At some point (before the auction? after?), Sawyer realized the nature and origin of his newly acquired little book — that the price he had paid was an incredible bargain for a unique treasure, but that it was not really his, but the Queen's — and offered to return it.

This was a noble gesture. The Queen accepted, via Geoffrey de Bellaigue, then the Surveyor of the Queen's Works of Art.[41] In a letter dated August 31, 1973, on the letterhead of the Lord Chamberlain's Office, de Bellaigue informed Mr. Sawyer that the Queen (that is, Queen Elizabeth II) wanted to buy the *Statesmen* book from Sawyer for £240 (the amount he had paid at the auction), plus 10%. This seems, based on the context and tone of the

[39] Benson and Weaver, *The Book, vol. 1*, at 78, 215; Lucas, *The Book, vol. 2*, at 379.
[40] Sotheby & Co., Catalogue of Nineteenth Century and Modern First Editions 82 (July 16-17, 1973).
[41] Later Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue (KCVO), and later still the first full-time Director of the Royal Collection.

letter read as a whole, to be an amount greater than (or, at most, equal to) whatever terms Sawyer had suggested when he offered the book to the Queen. "Her Majesty has asked me to tell you how grateful she is," de Bellaigue wrote, and then, after expressing his own thanks as well, concluded, "I have little doubt that this book must indeed be the one which originally belonged to the library of the Queen's Doll's House."[42]

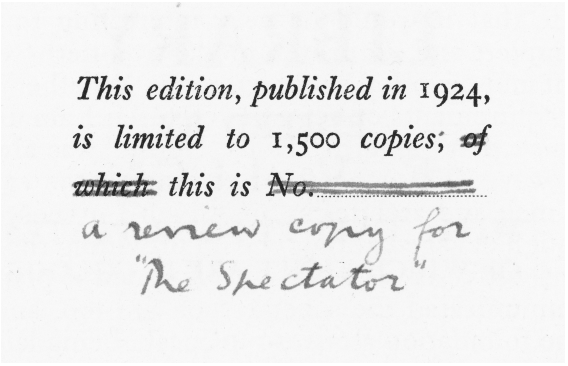
I do not know who Sawyer is, nor do I know where *Statesmen* is now. Presumably it is back in the Queen's Dolls' House. In any event, the story of Sawyer and *Statesmen* is a nice one. And it offers some hope that if *HOWW* ever is withdrawn from the Dolls' House library — or perhaps lost or mislaid (abandonment is just too improbable to reasonably contemplate) — it will find its way back onto the shelf where it belongs. Just as there is still hope that one day *HOWW* will find its way into the Sherlockian Canon, where it also belongs.

[42] Letter from Geoffrey de Bellaigue to Mr. Sawyer (August 31, 1973) (on file with the author, who does not yet have permission from the Crown to publish a facsimile of the letter).

# Appendix A

## How Watson Learned the Trick in The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House, vol. 2, pp. 92-94 & plate vii (1924)[43]

N.B. The limitations page in the copy of the book from which the images on the next four pages were scanned indicates that it is an extra copy — not one of those that were available for sale:




[43] Yes, the "R.A. Knox" just to the right of "Sir A. Conan Doyle" on plate vii is the Ronald Knox whose *Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes* was published in the July 1912 issue of *The Blue Book*. Regrettably, Knox's contribution to *The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House* was not a small sequel to that important work. Instead, he added a little chapter, titled *More Memories of the Future*, to his recently published humorous book, *Memories of the Future: Being Memoirs of the Years 1915-1972 Written in the Year of Grace 1988 by Opal, Lady Porstock* (Methuen & Co., 1923).

## THE DOLLS' HOUSE LIBRARY

brief, heavy slumber, she ſtepped light and surely, and down the wide ſtaircase. And Vega the far-shining ſtood over againſt the window above the slate roof. Ann walked in the ſtrange room as if she were being guided by the hand towards the oak cheſt. There, juſt as if she was dreaming it was her bed, she laid herself down in the old rose silk, in the fragrant place. But it was so dark in the room that the movement of the lid was indiſtinguishable. . . .

Through the long day, the grandmother sat in her bow-window. Her lips were pursed, and she looked with dim, inquisitive scrutiny upon the ſtreet where people passed to and fro and vehicles rolled by. At evening she climbed the ſtair and ſtood in the doorway of the large spare bedroom. The ascent had shortened her breath. Her magnifying speſtacles reſted upon her nose. Leaning her hand on the doorpoſt she peered in towards the glimmering square of the window in the quiet gloom. But she could not see far, because her sight was dim and the light of day feeble. Nor could she deteſt the faint fragrance, as of autumnal leaves. But in her mind was a tangled skein of memories—laughter and tears, and little children now old-fashioned, and the advent of friends, and long farewells.

And gossiping fitfully, inarticulately, with herself, the old lady went down again to her window-seat.

### ETHEL M. DELL

The most popular English writer of the present day has copied out passages from three of her "best sellers"—*The Knave of Diamonds* (1913), *Bars of Iron* (1916), and *The Hundredth Chance* (1917).

### SIR A. CONAN DOYLE

#### HOW WATSON LEARNED THE TRICK

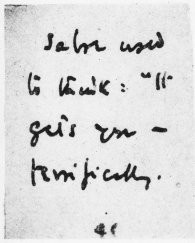
Watson had been watching his companion intently ever since he had sat down to the breakfaſt table. Holmes happened to look up and catch his eye.

"Well, Watson, what are you thinking about?" he asked.

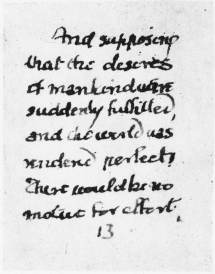
"About you."

"Me?"

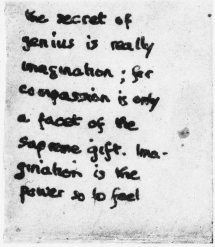
"Yes, Holmes, I was thinking how superficial are those tricks of yours, and how wonderful it is that the public should continue to show intereſt in them."



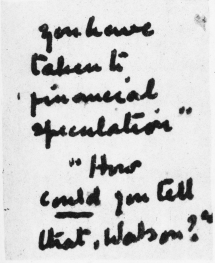

A. S. M. Hutchinson



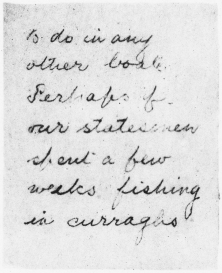

Arnold Bennett



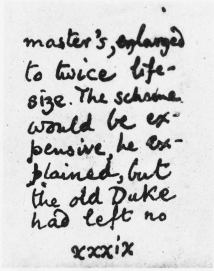

Frank Swinnerton



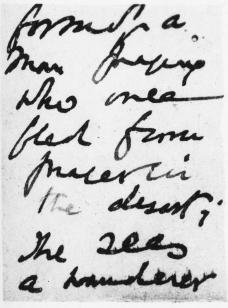

Sir A. Conan Doyle



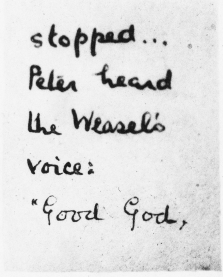

George A. Birmingham



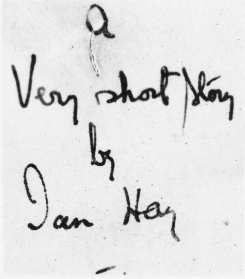

R. A. Knox




Robert Hichens




Gilbert Frankau




Major J. H. Beith

SPECIMEN PAGES IN FACSIMILE FROM BOOKS SPECIALLY WRITTEN

SIR A. CONAN DOYLE

"I quite agree," said Holmes. "In fact, I have a recollection that I have myself made a similar remark."

"Your methods," said Watson severely, "are really easily acquired."

"No doubt," Holmes answered with a smile. "Perhaps you will yourself give an example of this method of reasoning."

"With pleasure," said Watson. "I am able to say that you were greatly preoccupied when you got up this morning."

"Excellent!" said Holmes. "How could you possibly know that?"

"Because you are usually a very tidy man and yet you have forgotten to shave."

"Dear me! How very clever!" said Holmes, "I had no idea, Watson, that you were so apt a pupil. Has your eagle eye detected anything more?"

"Yes, Holmes. You have a client named Barlow, and you have not been successful in his case."

"Dear me, how could you know that?"

"I saw the name outside his envelope. When you opened it you gave a groan and thrust it into your pocket with a frown on your face."

"Admirable! You are indeed observant. Any other point?"

"I fear, Holmes, that you have taken to financial speculation."

"How *could* you tell that, Watson?"

"You opened the paper, turned to the financial page, and gave a loud exclamation of interest."

"Well, that is very clever of you, Watson. Any more?"

"Yes, Holmes, you have put on your black coat, instead of your dressing gown, which proves that you are expecting some important visitor at once."

"Anything more?"

"I have no doubt that I could find other points, Holmes, but I only give you these few, in order to show you that there are other people in the world who can be as clever as you."

"And some not so clever," said Holmes. "I admit that they are few, but I am afraid, my dear Watson, that I must count you among them."

"What do you mean, Holmes?"

"Well, my dear fellow, I fear your deductions have not been so happy as I should have wished."

"You mean that I was mistaken."

## THE DOLLS' HOUSE LIBRARY

"Juſt a little that way, I fear. Let us take the points in their order: I did not shave because I have sent my razor to be sharpened. I put on my coat because I have, worse luck, an early meeting with my dentiſt. His name is Barlow, and the letter was to confirm the appointment. The cricket page is beside the financial one, and I turned to it to find if Surrey was holding its own againſt Kent. But go on, Watson, go on! It's a very superficial trick, and no doubt you will soon acquire it."

JOHN DRINKWATER

### Birthright

Lord Rameses of Egypt sighed
  Because a summer evening passed;
And little Ariadne cried
  That summer fancy fell at laſt
To duſt; and young Verona died
  When beauty's hour was overcaſt.

Theirs was the bitterness we know
  Because the clouds of hawthorn keep
So short a ſtate, and kisses go
  To tombs unfathomably deep,
While Rameses and Romeo
  And little Ariadne sleep.

### Trial

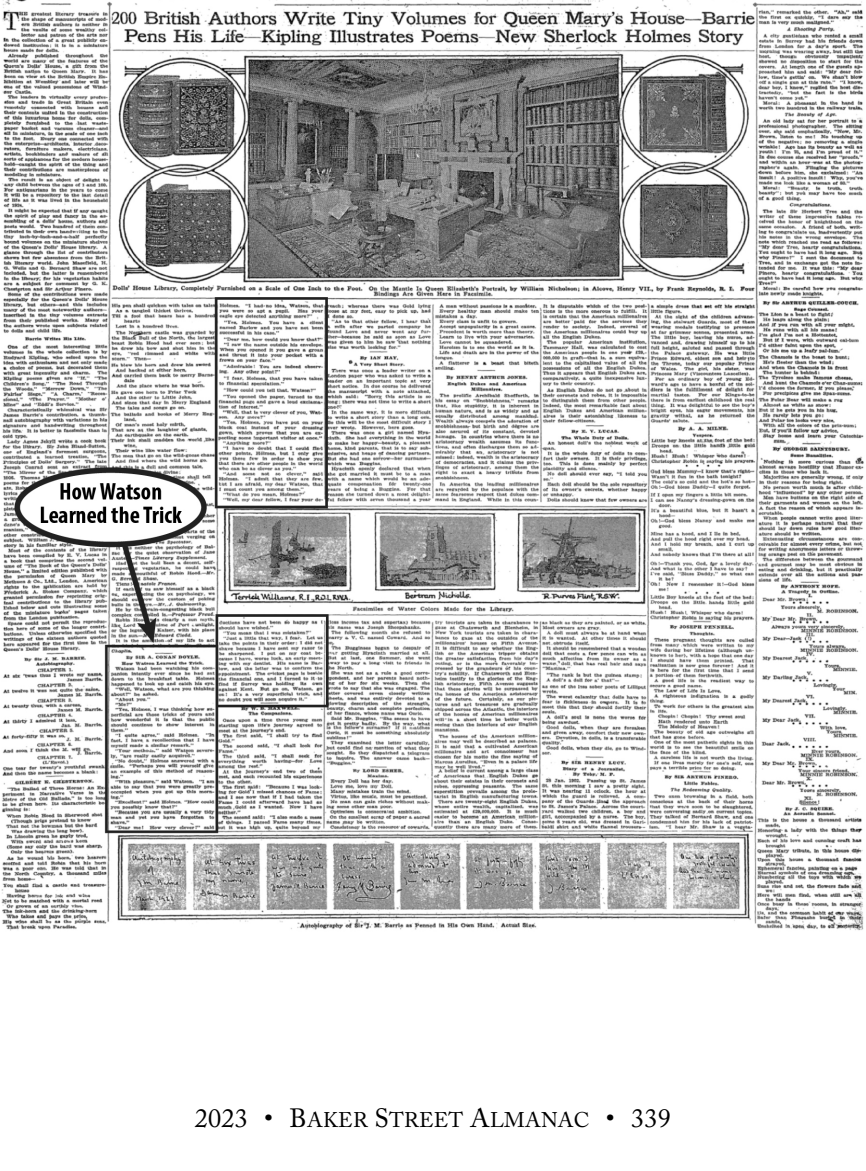
Beauty of old and beauty yet to be,
Stripped of occasion, have security;
This hour it is searches the judgment through,
When masks of beauty walk with beauty too.

### On a Lake

Sweet in the rushes
The reed-singers make
A music that hushes
The life of the lake;
The leaves are dumb,
And the tides are ſtill,
And no calls come
From the flocks on the hill.

# Appendix B

## How Watson Learned the Trick in The New York Times, sec. 8, p. 3 (August 24, 1924)



THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 1924. XX 3

# QUEEN'S DOLLS HAVE PRICELESS LIBRARY

## 200 British Authors Write Tiny Volumes for Queen Mary's House—Barrie Pens His Life—Kipling Illustrates Poems—New Sherlock Holmes Story

Dolls' House Library, Completely Furnished on a Scale of One Inch to the Foot. On the Mantle Is Queen Elizabeth's Portrait, by William Nicholson; in Alcove, Henry VII., by Frank Reynolds, R. I. Four Bindings Are Given Here in Facsimile.

THE greatest literary treasury in the shape of manuscripts of modern British authors is neither in the vaults of some wealthy collector and patron of the arts nor in the safe of one of the world's endowed institutions; it is in a miniature house made for dolls.

The literary celebrities throughout the world are aware of the features of the Queen's Dolls' House, a gift from the British nation to Queen Mary. It has been on view at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, and is now the theme of the valued possessions of Her Majesty Dolldom.

Its builders in virtually every profession and trade in Great Britain even remotely connected with houses and their furnishings marked the completion of this luxurious home for dolls, contributing something to it as a token of gratitude for the modern house builder—caught the spirit of the thing and their contributions are masterpieces of modelling in miniature.

There was also the subject of delight to any child between the ages of 1 and 101. For autographers in the years to come will be a valuable asset. Each volume will are a subject for comment by G. K. Chesterton and Sir Arthur Pinero.

It is to be expected that if any caught the spirit of play and fancy in the remodelling of a dolls' house authors and poets would. Two hundred of them contributed to their own hands—lilting to the tune of a piper's reel, or a sonnet—to the bound volumes on the miniature shelves of the Queen's Dolls' House library. A glance at the titles of the books contributed shows how few absentees from the British literary world. John Masefield, H. G. Wells and G. Bernard Shaw are not included, but the latter is remembered by a book on the shelf, although there are a subject for comment by G. K. Chesterton and Sir Arthur Pinero.

Many of the contributions were made especially for the Queen's Dolls' House library, but others—and this includes many of the most noteworthy authors—inscribed in the tiny volumes extracts from their own published works. Some of the authors wrote upon subjects related to dolls and child life.

### Barrie Writes His Life.

One of the most interesting little volumes in the whole collection is by Rudyard Kipling, who edited upon the Queen's suggestion a book of verse upon a choice of poems, had decorated them with great ingenuity and charm. The Kipling volume is called "Rhymes for Children's Song." The Royal Princess the Words," "Mervow Down," "The Fairies' Hour," "A Charm," "Somewhere," "The Prayer," "Mother o' Mine," and "Recessional."

Characteristically whimsical was Sir James Barrie's contribution, a thumbnail autobiography, written in facsimile signature and handwriting throughout his life. It is better to facsimile than in cold type.

Lady James Jekyll writes a cook book for the Queen's Dolls' House library, one of England's foremost surgeons, contributed a learned treatise, "The Anatomy of the Human Body." The late Jerome K. Jerome, the author of "The History of Mr. Polly" and "Three Men in a Boat," contributed a poem for the Queen's Dolls' House library, a fine specimen of his humorous style.




Most of the contents of the library have been compiled by E. V. Lucas in a book entitled "Lilliput Lyrics," a copy of the book has been a decent, selfrespecting vegetarian, he could have a facsimile of which is on view at the Dolls' House.

Titles of books in the Queen's Dolls' House library, a limited edition published with the permission of Queen Mary by Methuen & Co., Ltd., London, American rights by Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, N. Y., and Philadelphia J. Hinton Cossaert, which granted permission for reprinting originally appeared in the London Times, the United States and also illustrative some of the miniature books' pages taken from the London publication.

Space could not permit the reproduction of all the pages of the books in the Queen's Dolls' House library. Unless otherwise specified the writings of the thirteen authors quoted appear in books in the Queen's Dolls' House library.

### By Sir A. CONAN DOYLE.

How Watson Learned the Trick.

Watson had been watching his companion intently ever since he had sat down to the breakfast table. Holmes was reading his letters, and now he said:

"Well, Watson, what are you thinking about?" he asked.

"Nothing much."

"Yes, Holmes, I was thinking how extraordinarily you have the knack of guessing what is in the minds of other people, sometimes in very intimate matters."

"I quite agree," said Holmes, "but as you have had many opportunities of noticing this I myself made a similar remark."

"Your methods," said Watson severely, "are open to criticism."

"No doubt," Holmes answered with a smile. "Perhaps you will yourself give an example of this method of inference."

"With pleasure," said Watson, "I am going to say that you were greatly preoccupied when you got up this morning."

"Excellent!" said Holmes. "How could you possibly know that?"

"I observed that you carried a very thick stick and put your boots on before dressing."

"Dear me! How very clever!" said Holmes, "I had no idea, Watson, that you were so apt a pupil. Has your skill so fascinated you that you have become a disciple?"

"Dear me, how could you have that?" "I saw the same notable his envelope. Then you have had a letter from a friend, and hired it into your pocket with a frown on your face."

"Admirable!" "You are indeed observing. Any other point?"

"I know that you have taken to writing upon that hand, and you have not been successful in his case."

"How could you tell that, Watson?"

"You opened the paper, turned to the financial page and gave a loud exclamation of interest."

"Well, that is very clever of you, Watson," said Holmes. "I admit that they are five, that I am afraid, my dear Watson, that you have not a case against me."

"What do you mean, Holmes?"

"Well, my dear fellow, I fear your deductions have not been so happy as I thought they were."

"You mean that I was mistaken?"

"Just a little that way, I fear. Let us take the points in their order. In the first place you assumed that I had been greatly disappointed. I put on my coat because I was going out. I am not going out, so with my coat on. Then I have had a letter, and the letter was to convince me that I was disappointed. The cricket page is beside the financial one, and I turned to it in the act of putting the letter in my pocket. Now, Watson, what are you thinking about?" he asked.

"Nothing."

"Yes, Holmes, I was thinking how extraordinarily you have the knack of guessing what is in the minds of other people, sometimes in very intimate matters."

"I quite agree," said Holmes, "but as you have had many opportunities of noticing this I myself made a similar remark."

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"You mean that I was mistaken?"

"Just a little that way, I fear. Let us take the points in their order. In the first place you assumed that I had been greatly preoccupied

Chaplin.

By SIR A. CONAN DOYLE.

**How Watson Learned the Trick.**

Watson had been watching his companion intently ever since he had sat down to the breakfast table. Holmes happened to look up and catch his eye.

"Well, Watson, what are you thinking about?" he asked.

"About you."

"Me?"

"Yes, Holmes, I was thinking how superficial are those tricks of yours and how wonderful it is that the public should continue to show interest in them."

"I quite agree," said Holmes. "In fact, I have a recollection that I have myself made a similar remark."

"Your methods," said Watson severely, "are really easily acquired."

"No doubt," Holmes answered with a smile. "Perhaps you will yourself give an example of this method of reasoning."

"With pleasure," said Watson. "I am able to say that you were greatly preoccupied when you got up this morning."

"Excellent!" said Holmes. "How could you possibly know that?"

"Because you are usually a very tidy man and yet you have forgotten to shave."

"Dear me! How very clever!" said

Holmes. "I had no idea, Watson, that you were so apt a pupil. Has your eagle eye detected anything more?"

"Yes, Holmes. You have a client named Barlow and you have not been successful in his case."

"Dear me, how could you know that?"

"I saw the name outside his envelope. When you opened it you gave a groan and thrust it into your pocket with a frown on your face."

"Admirable! You are indeed observing. Any other point?"

"I fear, Holmes, that you have taken to financial speculation."

"How could you tell that, Watson?"

"You opened the paper, turned to the financial page and gave a loud exclamation of interest."

"Well, that is very clever of you, Watson. Any more?"

"Yes, Holmes, you have put on your black coat instead of your dressing gown, which proves that you are expecting some important visitor at once."

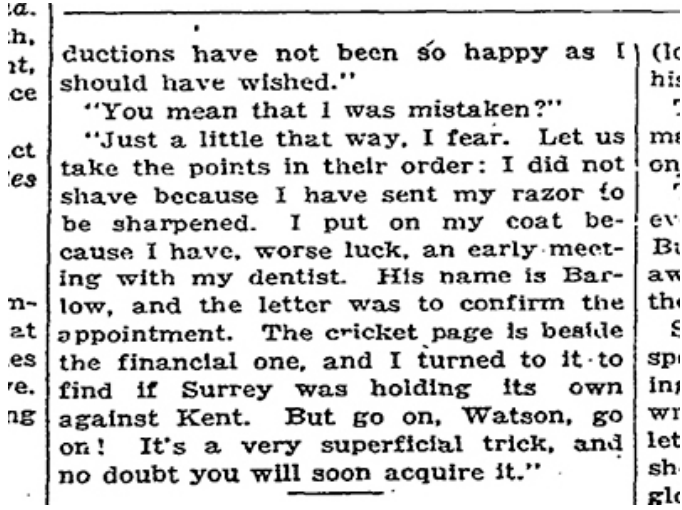
"Anything more?"

"I have no doubt that I could find other points, Holmes, but I only give you these few in order to show you that there are other people in the world who can be as clever as you."

"And some not so clever," said Holmes. "I admit that they are few, but I am afraid, my dear Watson, that I must count you among them."

"What do you mean, Holmes?"

"Well, my dear fellow, I fear your de-



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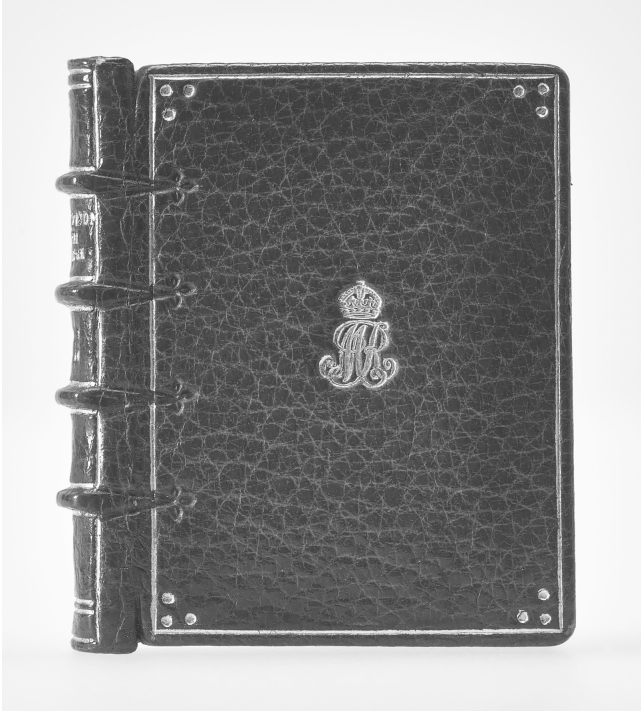
# Appendix C

## How Watson Learned the Trick in the Queen's Dolls' House library

N.B. The images on pages 342-346 and 348 are reproduced with the kind permission of the Royal Collection Trust. The image on page 347 is an excerpt from plate vii in The Book of the Queen's Dolls' House, vol. 2. (1924). All of them are, obviously, enlargements of the originals.[44]



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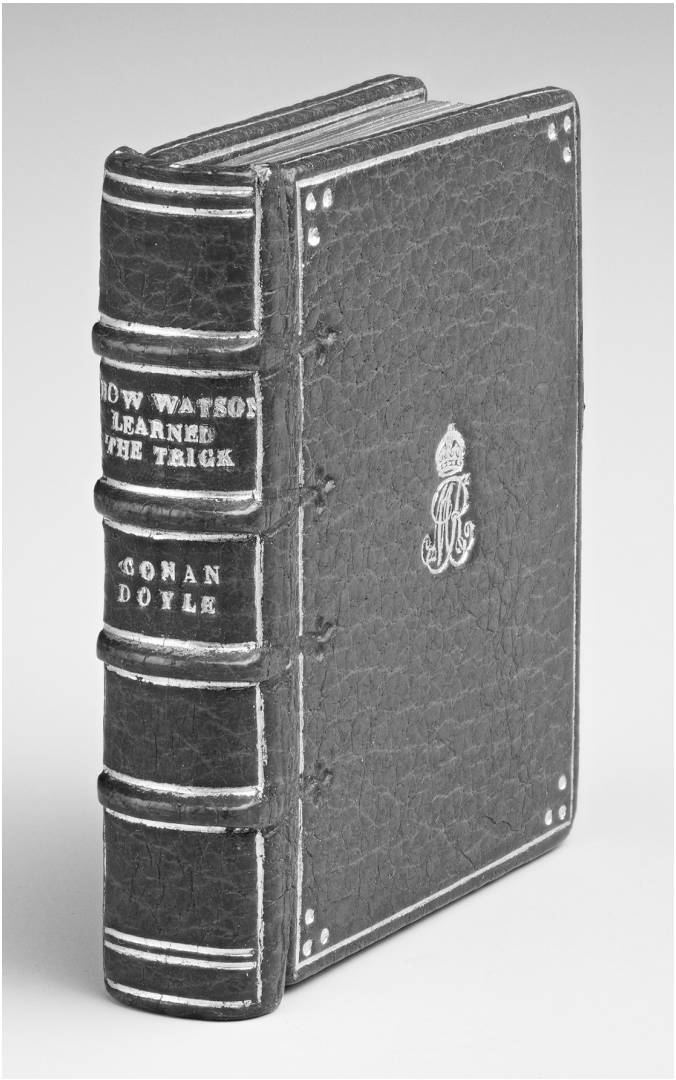
[44] The Royal Collection Trust describes the booklet as follows:

> Manuscript on paper, in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's own hand. Bound in red goatskin with simple gold-tooled decoration. | 3.9 x 0.7 cm (book measurement (inventory)) | RCIN 1171476

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930), How Watson learned the trick 1922, https://www.rct.uk/collection/1171476/how-watson-learned-the-trick.

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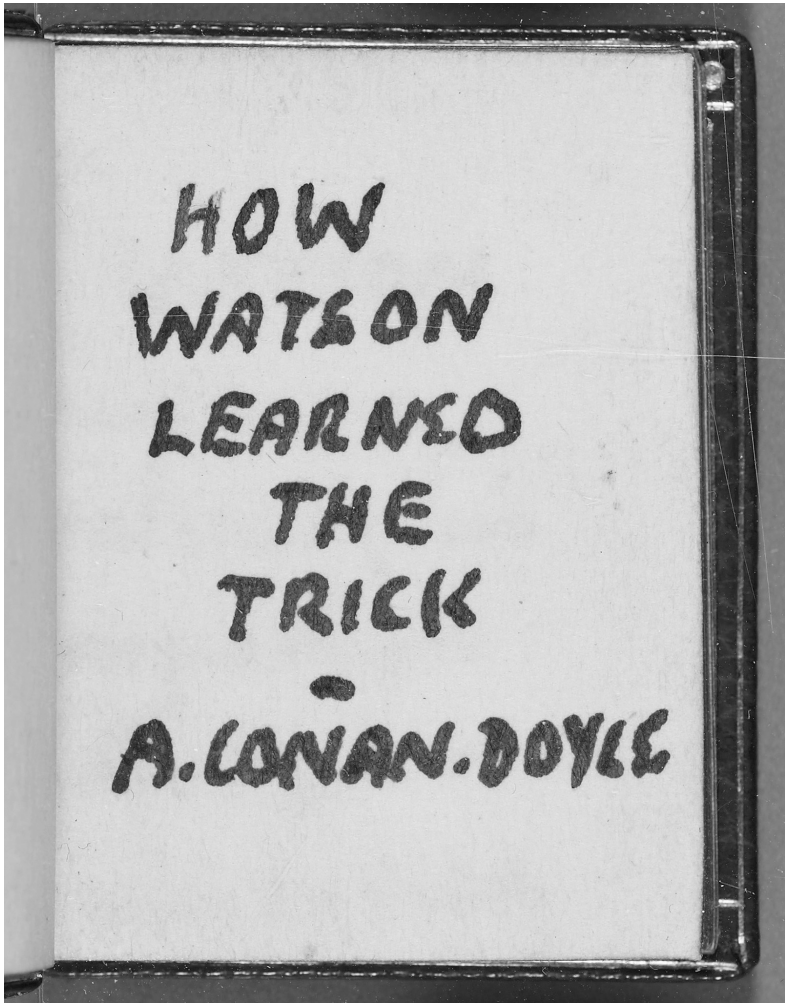


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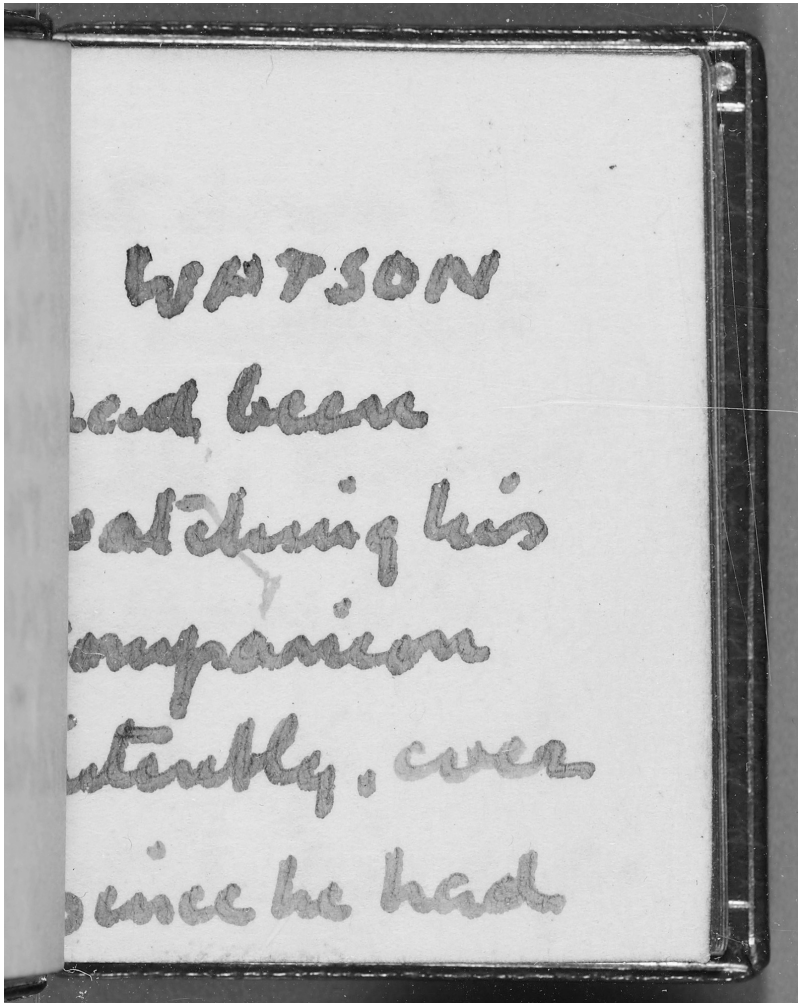


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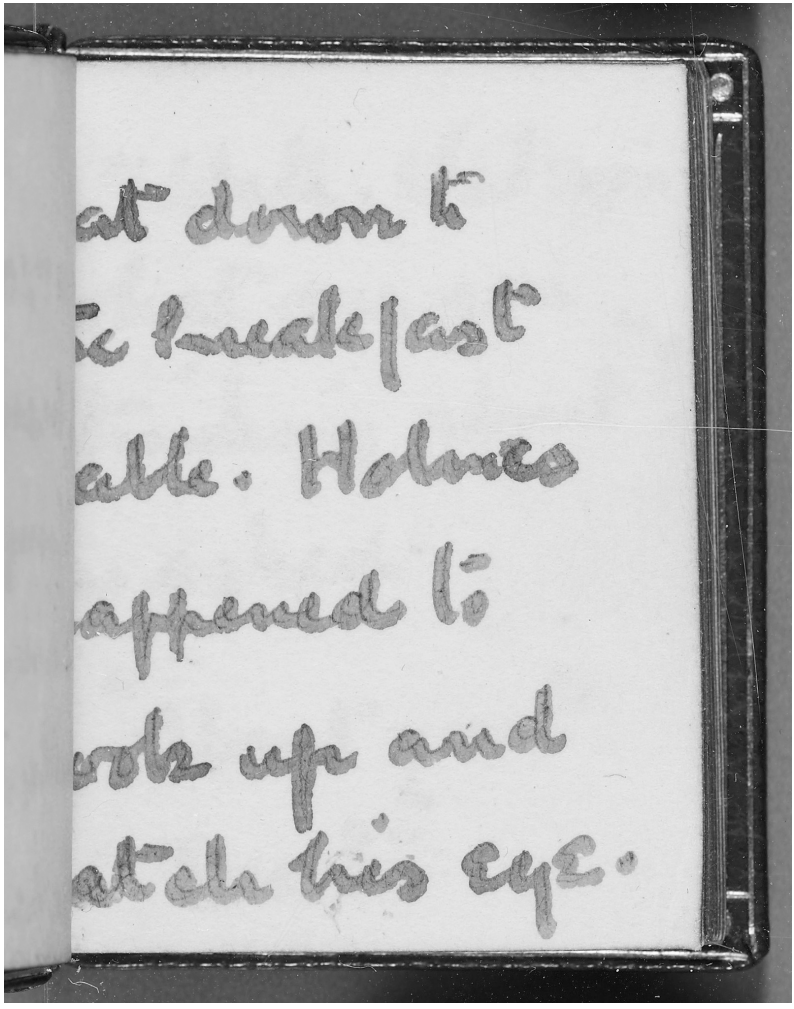

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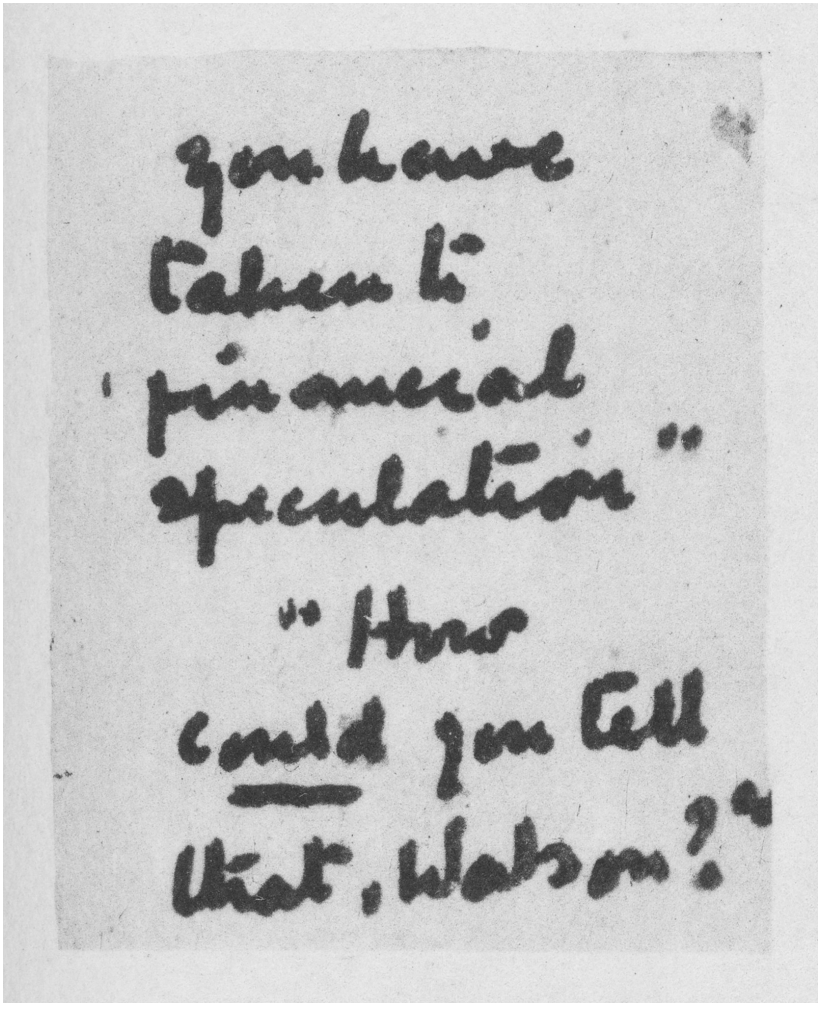
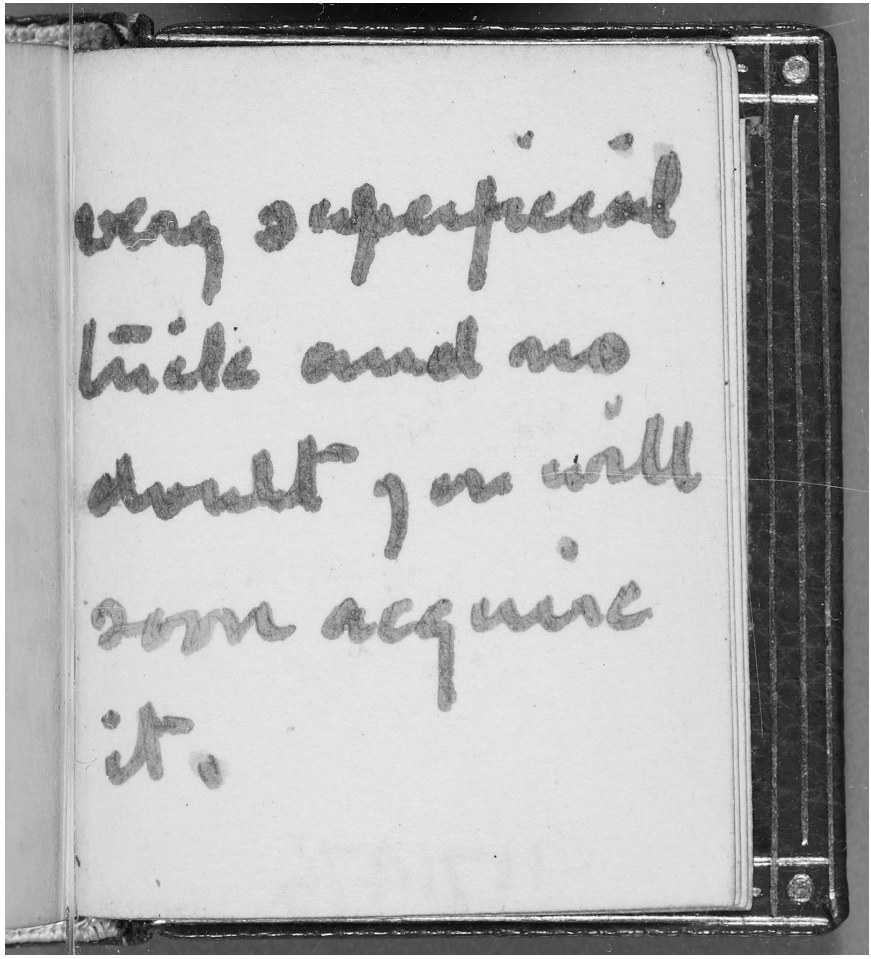

you have
taken in
financial
speculation"
"How
could you tell
that, Watson?"

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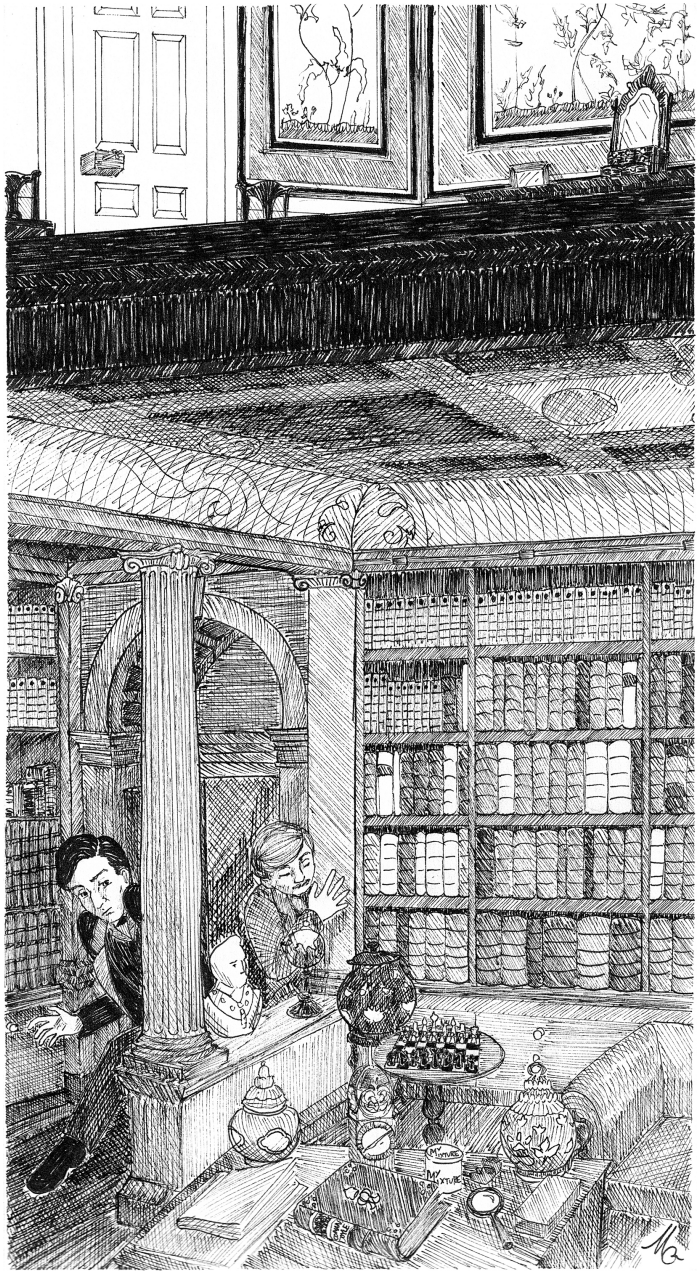


Sherlock Holmes and John H. Watson in the library of the Queen's Dolls' House, by Madeline Quiñones.

# Ephemeral Treasures, Durable Memories

# Ephemeral Treasures, Durable Memories

*Ross E. Davies*[*]

Some of our readers seem to enjoy this business of sharing a few of the holiday greetings received by the *Baker Street Almanac* and its editors. So, we are going to make a routine of it. On the next few pages you will find some of the charming holiday ephemera Sherlockian friends shared with us last winter. (We do regret that yet again we are constrained to print in grays 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.) They appear in the this order:

*1. A Vincent Starrett bookplate* — from Ray Betzner, the leading living authority on Starrett, his works, and his world. If you have not yet visited his website, *Studies in Starrett* (www.vincentstarrett.com), you're missing something special.

*2. "The Compliments of the Season"* — from Roger Johnson and Jean Upton. They have been at this for a quite a long time, but show no signs of losing their enthusiasm, or of running out of clever new ways to send the same kind and complimentary message.

*3. "I know it is the last mince pie but do we have to resort to violence?"* — from Elaine and Jonathan McCafferty. Last year we characterized the McCaffertys' holiday cards as "invariably imbued with diabolical fun-lovingness." In light of their most recent work, we stand by that statement.

*4. "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, as usual (or is it always?), with our own festive postcard.

*5. 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.

---

[*] Ross Davies is a *Green Bag* editor.

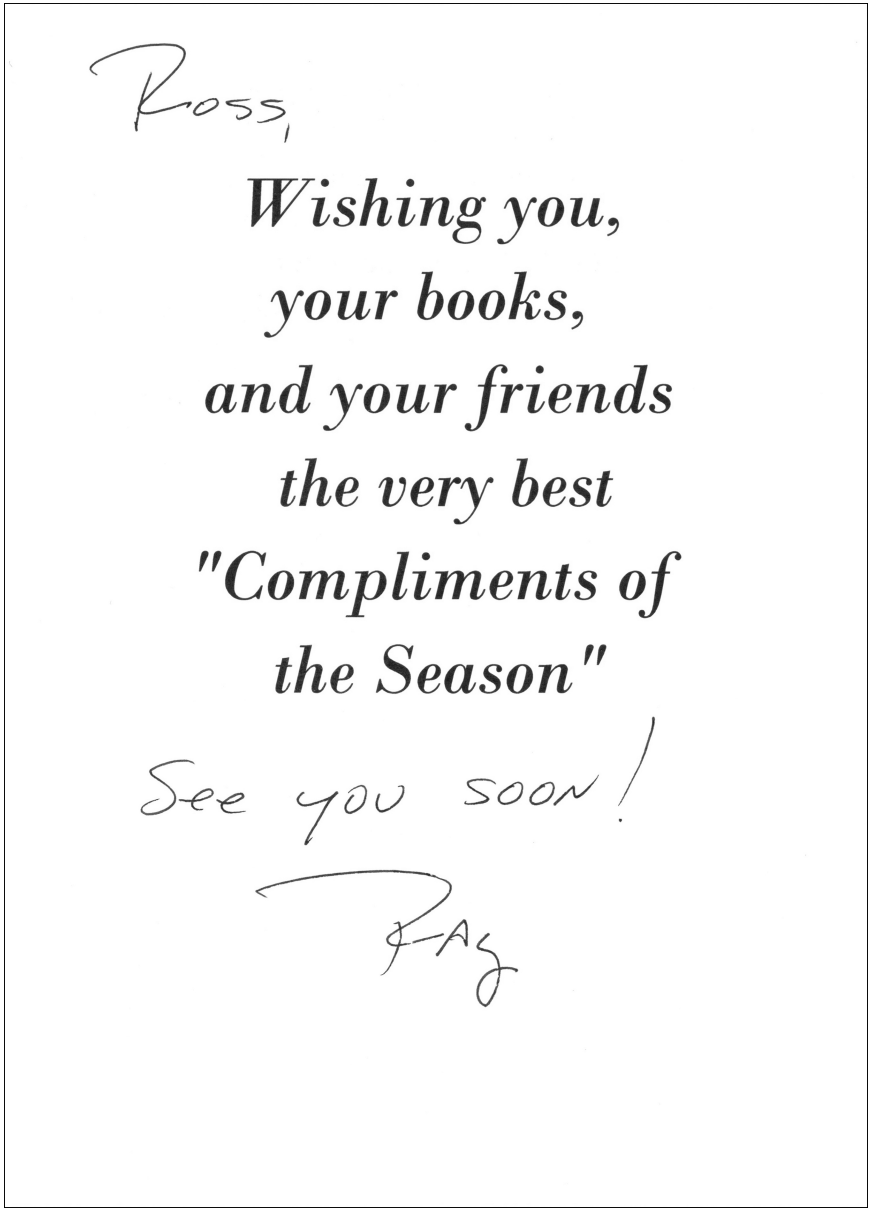
Civilities in Dickson's Close
VINCENT STARRETT
His Book and His Friend

Vincent Starrett had several bookplates during his lifetime. His most famous showed a smiling Sherlock Holmes and was drawn by Fridolf Johnson, a Chicago artist who became a close friend. The bookplate on the cover of this card was also created by Johnson, probably in the mid 1920s.

The plate contains the words:
"Civilities in Dickson's Close
Vincent Starrett
His Book and His Friend."

Perhaps no simple phrase captures the relationship between Starrett and his beloved books as well as this.

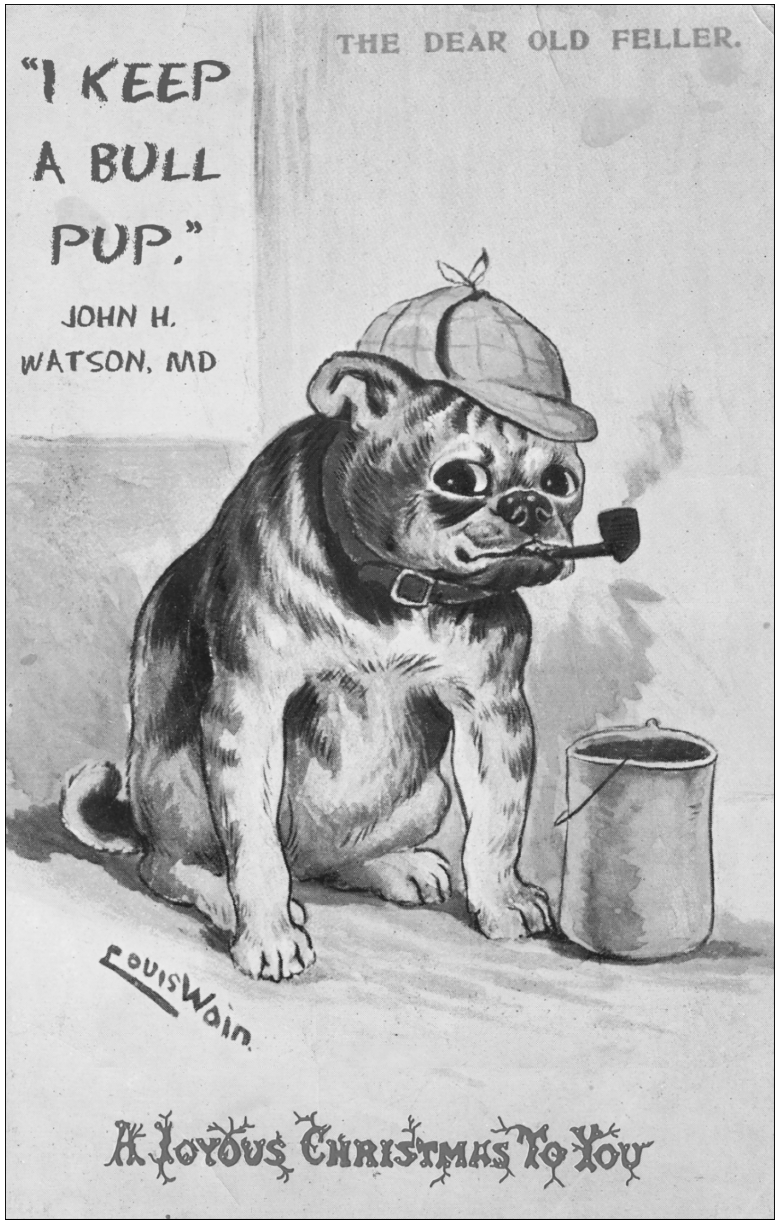
Dickson's Close was an actual place, an alley off High Street in old Edinburgh, the home city of Arthur Conan Doyle. The original image by artist William Brassey Hole (a member of the Royal Scottish Academy) comes from a tome called "The Book of Old Edinburgh," published in Edinburgh in 1886.


Ross,
Wishing you,
your books,
and your friends
the very best
"Compliments of
the Season"
See you soon!
Ray

For more about Vincent Starrett,
his bookplates and his many works, visit
https://tinyurl.com/StarrettsBookplates
or use this QR code

Winter, 2022

Snapfish


THE DEAR OLD FELLER.
"I KEEP A BULL PUP."
JOHN H. WATSON, MD
LOUIS WAIN
A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS TO YOU

Louis Wain (1860-1939) is famous for his paintings and drawings of cats, but as this card shows, he was equally adept at depicting other creatures.

We have slightly adapted the picture. The original wording on the poster reads:

BILL SYKES HIS DOG
GREAT SUCCESS
500 NIGHTS RUN

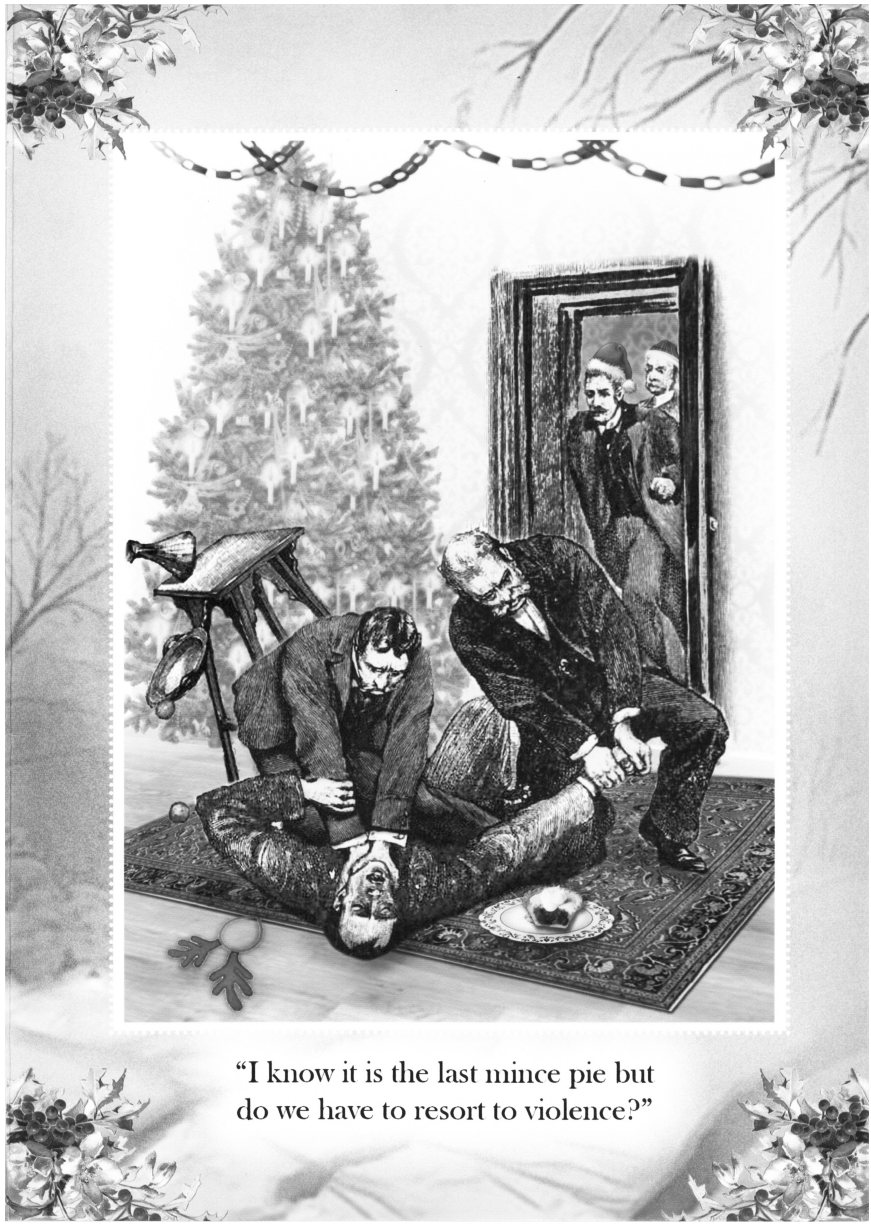
That explains the deerstalker. In London, a cloth cap of any sort was only for the working class - honest or otherwise. A gentleman like Sherlock Holmes would wear a topper or a bowler. Unless he was in disguise, of course.

But Louis Wain does have authentic Holmes connections. His caricature of William Gillette as a cat, parodying the portrait of Gillette by 'Spy', is almost as famous as the original. And in 2021 he was portrayed on film by Benedict Cumberbatch in 'The Electrical Life of Louis Wain'.

The Compliments of the Season

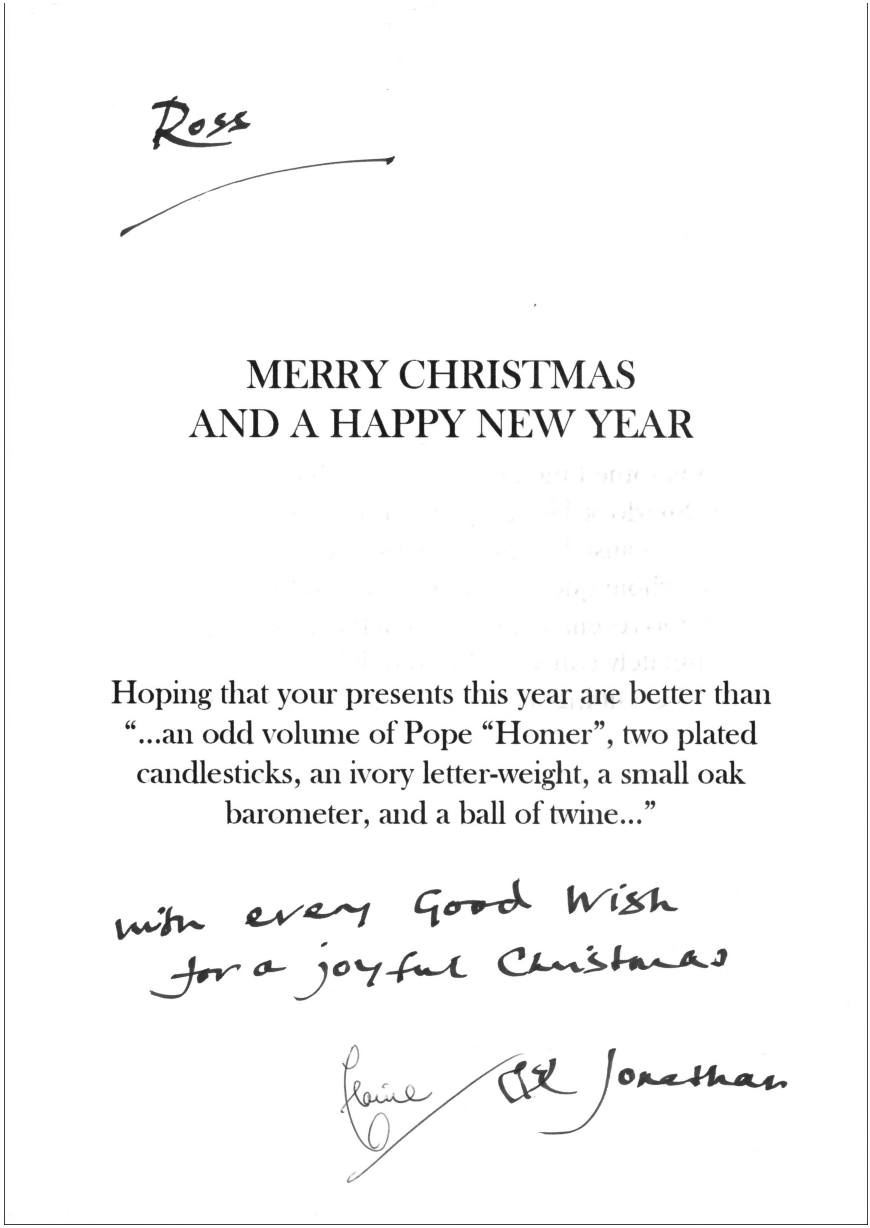
Roger Johnson & Jean Upton
BSI, ASH ASH, BSI

Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE



"I know it is the last mince pie but do we have to resort to violence?"

It was some time before the health of my friend,
Mr Sherlock Holmes, recovered from the strain
caused by his immense exertions.
The whole question of the...colossal schemes of
... is too recent in the minds of the public, and too
intimately concerned with politics and finance,
to be a fitting subject for this Christmas card.

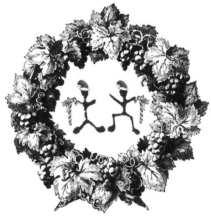

Ross

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hoping that your presents this year are better than "...an odd volume of Pope "Homer", two plated candlesticks, an ivory letter-weight, a small oak barometer, and a ball of twine..."

with every Good Wish
for a joyful Christmas

Laine & Jonathan



"ONCE AGAIN, HOLMES ASKED FOR MY XMAS LIST JUST ONE DAY BEFORE THE HOLIDAY."

Undoubtedly, the "Cardboard Box" was not the gift Watson had in mind...

WISHING YOU

***The Compliments of the Season***

AND

**A HEALTHY AND HAPPY YEAR**

looking forward to seeing you —

. . . from the Baker Street Almanac.

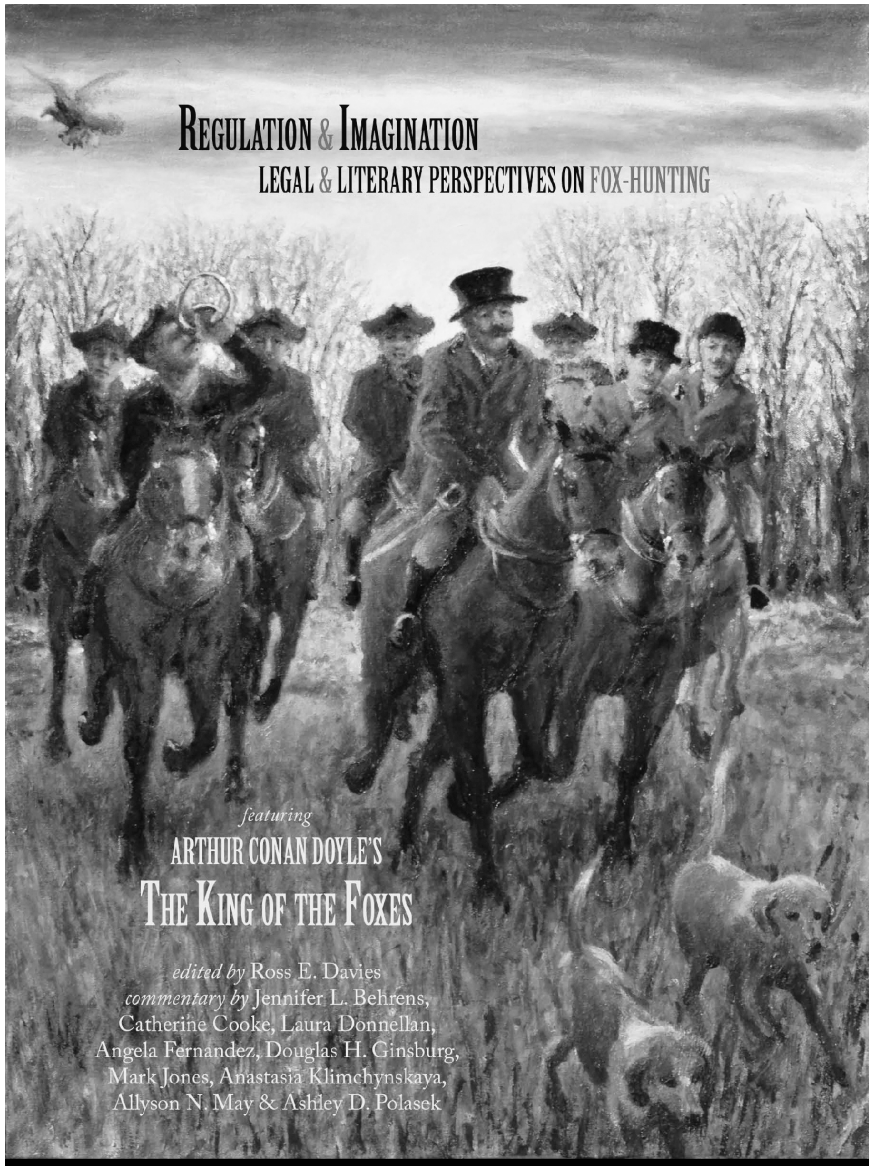
*May you be blessed with many joyous thoughts — spoken and unspoken — in 2023.*

*Readably,*

**The Editors**

*p.s. The 2023 Almanac will be in print early in the new year (unlike the tardy 2022 Almanac last time). You can order your copy now, if you like, at the website below.*

http://greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html

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