

SCUTTLEBUTT FROM THE SPERMACETI PRESS – A COMPILATION (1985 – PRESENT)

Volume 2 – 2011 -- Present

A Little about the History of Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press -- by Peter E. Blau

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press has been published monthly ink-on-paper, with occasional illustrations and enclosures, for forty years. Much of the gossip is quite trivial, but most of it is Sherlockian or Doylean. And the subscription price will increase whenever postage rates increase.

The newsletter started in 1971 as sheets of paper, kept by my typewriter, so that I could write paragraphs of minor news for my friend John Bennett Shaw. Eventually others found out about what I called "information sheets" and asked for photocopies, and the number of copies required soon reached the point where I started charging for them to recover out-of-pocket costs. When I acquired my first computer in 1985, things became much easier and the format more consistent. Philip A. Shreffler, editor of The Baker Street Journal in 1987, suggested that readers of the Baker Street Journal might welcome the opportunity to read all that gossip, trivial and otherwise, and I finally named the newsletter, starting with the January 1988 issue.

The Spermaceti Press is the imaginary establishment from which my seasonal souvenirs for the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York in January have been published for many years, named in honor of a real (and the only known remaining) spermaceti press, preserved at the Nantucket Whaling Museum, where it once was used not to publish anything for whalers, but rather to process sperm oil. And the name of the press seemed appropriate, considering my Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars ("Black Peter") and the fact that when I named my press I was living on Holmes Road in Pittsfield, Mass., just up the road from Arrowhead, the home in which Herman Melville lived when he wrote Moby Dick.

Scuttlebutt is an appropriate pun, since it means gossip, and comes from the barrel (butt) of water used to provide drinking water for the crew of whalers and other ships. Gossip was as common around the scuttlebutt then as it is today around office water-coolers. I must confess that if I had realized how long it took to explain the name of the newsletter, I might have named it simply Gossip, but what's done is done.

This compilation of Peter's work will ease searches throughout all the files for specific subjects, such as comic books, movies, plays, etc. It is now broken up into two volumes: 1985 – 2010, and 2011 – Present due to the size of the files.

The compilation starts at March, 1985, when Peter migrated from a typewriter to a computer to develop the information each month.

For the sake of conserving the size of the file, images have been removed. This file only contains text. To access the files with images included, go to

<http://redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>

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Jan 11 #1:

1. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York for the celebration of the Great Detective's 157th birthday during the long weekend around Jan. 7, enjoyed nice weather as well as new venues that meant the walk from hotels to most functions were short and easy. People who had rooms on the eighth floor of the Yale Club were pleased to observe that the decorations in the corridor near the elevator included a color photograph of last year's annual dinner at the Club.
 2. The festivities were launched with the Adventuresses' traditional ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (with the usual lunch at McSorley's).
 3. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Michael Sims, who edited THE DEAD WITNESS: A CONNOISSEUR'S COLLECTION OF VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES and other anthologies ; you will be able to read his amusing paper in The Baker Street Journal's next issue.
 4. The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and featured the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) in an entertaining new "Holmesian Guide to the Internet" that involved Holmes and Watson in social networking. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan WHIMSEY award (in memory of his wife Jan Stauber) for the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year; the winners (Elaine and Joe Coppola, authors of "The Fayetteville Fairies") received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
 5. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, with Susan Rice offering the first toast to Gail Postal as The Woman. The dinner featured the usual toasts and traditions, John Linsenmeyer's learned discussion of Ronald Knox (this year being the centenary of his landmark paper on "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes"), contest winner James Zych's new look at Moriarty, and Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague, and Paul Singleton in dramatic portrayals of Arthur Conan Doyle, Dorothy L. Sayers, Sherlock Holmes, and Lord Peter Wimsey. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours, awarding Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Vinnie Brosnan ("That Gap on That Second Shelf"), Terence Faherty ("Sir Charles Baskerville"), Lyndsay Faye ("Kitty Winter"), Frank Ferry ("Dr. Leon Sterndale"), David W. Houle ("The British Museum"), and Peggy Perdue ("Violet Westbury"). And Andrew Fusco, Steve Rothman, and Les Klinger presented Mike with the first-ever "Wiggie" (a handsome medal designed and executed by Maggie Schpak honoring him as the "benign dictator of the BSI."
 6. Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club has "Stately Homes in the Canon" as its theme and featured toasts, songs, and skits that included "States Homes of the Dead and Fictitious" and "A Little Problem: A Three Dimensional Tragedy in Three Acts and Five Prologues".
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7. Jan 11 #2: On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. And The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing someone who introduces young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Peggy Perdue; the society has a fine web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
 8. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York offered entertainment in the Meeting Room and wining, dining, and conversation in the Great Hall; the entertainment included the usual traditions, and a performance of the song "Let Yourself Fall" from the work-in-progress musical "Dust and Shadow" (based on Lyndsay Faye's book).
 9. Michael Pollak was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$1000) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year: his article on "The Spies Who Never Were: With Some Observations on Holmes' Retirement". And the Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets (designed by Scott Bond) by June Kinnee, Sue Vizoskie, Elaine Coppola, and Carol Cavaluzzi for Maggie Schpak's replica of the King of Bohemia's flaming beryl brooch, and an auction of literary and artistic donations to the Fund.
 10. The principal Saturday-evening event was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at Kennedy's Irish Pub, attended by diners from far (New Zealand) and near (New York's five boroughs), and a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant on Sunday morning.
 11. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2011 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 have received Irregular Shillings).
 12. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 13, 2012. And the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 7, 2012.
 13. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers. You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSJ, and information on the BSI's other publications. And in the meantime, you can also read Scott Monty's report at his blog at <www.bakerstreetblog.com>.
 14. The BSI's other publications include three new books, and if you don't have access to the Internet, more information is available from The Baker Street Irregulars, c/o Michael H. Kean, 3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.
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15. Jan 11 #3: The Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series continues with BOHEMIAN SOULS, edited by Otto Penzler and with a facsimile of the original manuscript of "A Scandal in Bohemia" and a careful transcript, annotations, commentary, and artwork. All of the Canonical manuscripts are interesting, of course, because they are as close as you can get to the moment of creation when an author writes a story, and this one particularly interesting, because it is written in two different hands (and the "mystery of the second hand" is still unsolved). 199 pp., \$35.00 plus shipping to the U.S. and elsewhere.
 16. ITALY AND SHERLOCK HOLMES is the new volume in the BSI's International Series ; edited by Enrico Solito and Gianlucca Salvatori, the book has translations of a wide variety of Italian scholarship, from Alessandra Calanchi's "Notes on the Italian Sherlockscape" to Luca Martinelli's "The Great Hiatus: Five Hypotheses for Five Mysteries" to Stefano Guerra's "Between Antigone and Creon: Holmes, Law, and Justice". 208 pp., \$39.95 plus shipping to the U.S. and elsewhere.
 17. And THE GRAND GAME: A CELEBRATION OF SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: VOLUME ONE: 1902-1959, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, is just what the subtitle implies, offering reprints of Ronald A. Knox's cornerstone "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", earlier and later criticism, and King's new introduction "The Grand Game: Textual, Higher, Radical, and Midrashic Criticism". The book is dedicated to the late Bernard

- Davies, who once wrote, "How wonderful to discover that, even if you are slightly mad, you are not alone," and it demonstrates well just how interesting it can be to play the Grand Game. 437 pp., \$39.95 (to the U.S.)/\$49.95 (elsewhere) plus shipping.
18. WNYC-FM offers listeners interesting reports on Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians, mainly thanks to Sarah Montague, who interviewed Laurie R. King and Les Klinger about THE GRAND GAME during the birthday festivities; go to <www.culture.wnyc.org/articles/features/2011/jan/13/study-sherlock> to hear what they had to say. And earlier WNYC-FM material still is available on the Internet: <www.wnyc.org/news/articles/120760> aired on Jan. 11, 2009; <www.studio360.org/episodes/2009/12/25> is a one-hour "Studio 360" program; and <www.culture.wnyc.org/articles/features/2010/jan/26/sherlock-love> has audio and video from last year's Gillette Luncheon.
 19. RONALD KNOX AND SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ORIGIN OF SHERLOCKIAN STUDIES, edited by Michael J. Crowe (Indianapolis: Gasogene Press, 2011; 126 pp., \$32.95), adds to the celebration of Knox's work: there's an interesting introduction by the editor, reprints of five pieces of Sherlockiana written by Knox (including "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes" with annotations by the editor), and (reprinted in full) the letter that Conan Doyle wrote to Knox in 1912. The publisher's address: Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256 <www.wessexpress.com>.
 20. "I hate to see you leave/With tears all over your face/Just like Sherlock Holmes/The whole world is on my case" is from a song performed by Johnnie Taylor in 1973 (written by Frank Lee Johnson and Donald Davies), and discovered by Peter Ashman. You can hear Johnnie Taylor performing the song on YouTube at <www.youtube.com>.
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21. Jan 11 #4: Tyke Niver has reported a story about Gillette Castle, written by Ben Amato and posted at SalemPatch (a web-site on Long Island) <www.sachem.patch.com/articles/gillette-castle-state-park>; click on the "video" link to view Amato's narrated 7-minute video tour of the Castle (and if you watch to the end you'll see Tyke and Teddie impersonating Gillette and his wife).
 22. Sorry about that: I praised Charles Prepole's colorful web-site "Sherlock Holmes News" (Dec 10 #1); the correct URL is <www.sherlocknews.com>.
 23. Edward R. Hamilton, who specializes in remaindered books, offers interesting Sherlockian and Doylean books, DVDs, and CDs at nicely discounted prices; you can request a catalog (Falls Village, CT 06031) or visit his web-site <www.edwardrhamilton.com>.
 24. Tim Johnson, curator of special collections as well as curator of the Sherlock Holmes collections at the University of Minnesota, maintains an interesting blog called "Special & Rare on a Stick", and his new entry "Sherlock Holmes on U Media" <www.tinyurl.com/2cbujx5> offers an interesting look at what can be done now with digital media: there are two audio files featuring John Bennett Shaw, and scans of three-dimensional objects from his collection.
 25. The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Toronto also has some nice publicity on the Internet at blogTO <www.tinyurl.com/45mmm32>, with excellent photographs of some of the interesting items in the collection.
 26. Does anyone know what happened to Father Francis Hertzberg? He was based in Bebington, Wirral, and active as a dealer in Sherlockiana and Doyleana in the 1970s and 1980s; he also had a letter in the Sunday Telegraph that he signed as coordinator of Backlash: The Man's Movement for True Equality.
 27. The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the winter issue has the second part of Evelyn Herzog's presentation ("Boys and Girls Together") at last year's conference in Minneapolis (her reminiscences about the history of ASH), and the first part of Brad Keefauver's dinner speech ("Changing History"), and much more. It's published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
 28. Robert DeFreest reports on his campaign to get Paul-Felix Montez' new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Edwin Drood Mystery" produced: you can see a short trailer at <www.sherlockproject.blogspot.com>, and support the project by purchasing their merchandise at <www.zazzle.com>; search for [sherlock project].
 29. Charles E. Henry ("The Lion's Mane") died on Dec. 29. He was a researcher, an educator, and a pioneer in electroencephalography, in 1990 honored with an invitation to be the patron of the Charles E. Henry Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists (which includes a Sherlockian silhouette in its logo). He was highly regarded for his spectacular mustache, his everpresent pipe, and his enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes, and he received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.
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30. Jan 11 #5: Gerry Rafferty died on Jan. 4. A Scottish singer and songwriter, he wrote the best-selling hit "Baker Street" (1978), which is not Sherlockian other than the mention of Baker Street; Christopher Roden reported in 2000 that he had heard from Rafferty that he had titled the song in reference to the street in London. You can see him performing the "Baker Street" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkS169P_Eeo> (Mike McCoy kindly reported the link).
 31. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-1.htm>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, and a report on the visit by The Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz Society to Clarendo, Iowa (the birthplace of Glenn Miller).
 32. The theme of the Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2010" is "Heroism, Courage, and Valor", and the essays range from "Canonical Heroism" (by Pasquale Accardo) to "Holmes Gets a 'C' in Courage" (by Michael Eckman), with nice artwork by Soren Everson (a fourth-grader who is an active member of the society). The 46-page booklet is available from Tim Reich (6809 Pillsbury Avenue, Richfield, MN 55423) for \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
 33. The Calabash Press has published many interesting Sherlockian and Doylean book over the years, and Chris Roden reports that he is having a New Year Warehouse Clearance Sale with deeply discounted prices on selected titles. The catalog's available at <[www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash Sale.pdf](http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash%20Sale.pdf)> [and yes, there's a space in that URL] or from the Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada).
 34. Forecast: a new (as yet unnamed) pastiche by Anthony Horowitz (from Orion in September); he's the creator of the television series "Foyle's War" and the author of the best-selling "Alex Rider" children's series, and was the keynote speaker at the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. His web-site's at <www.anthonhorowitz.com>; the pastiche has the approval of the Conan Doyle Estate.
 35. And "Anthony Horowitz Is a Self-Confessed Literary Serial Killer--and the Perfect Choice to Take on Sherlock Holmes" is the headline (presumably not written by Horowitz) on a piece he wrote for The Times (Jan. 22) in which he explains the ten rules he devised "to help avoid the most obvious pitfalls." It's likely still available at <www.thetimes.co.uk>.
 36. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: Final Adventure" will be performed by the Circle Players from Feb. 25, to Mar. 13. 416 Victoria Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 (732-968-7555) <www.circleplayers.com>.
 37. The campaign to "Give Jeremy Brett a Posthumous BAFTA Award" continues online at <www.bafta4jb.com>. BAFTA is the British Academy of Film & Television Arts, and you're invited to click on "The Petition" to sign one of the three versions: one for actors, directors, producers, and the world of the

theater; one for Sherlock Holmes societies and associations, and the third for the general public. Sally Hastings-Thomas reports that they have 3,500 signatures so far, and they hope to have 5,000 soon.

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38. Jan 11 #6: Anne Francis died on Jan. 2. She was a child model, and then an actress, best known as Altaïra in the film "Forbidden Planet" (1956) and as the star of the television series "Honey West" (1965); in 1978 she made an appearance disguised as a Sherlock Holmes on "Masquerade Party" on channel 2 in New York.
39. WHEELS OF ANARCHY by Max Pemberton (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 397 pp., £14.99/E17.99/\$24.95), is a thriller written by a friend of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Bertram Fletcher Robinson and first published in 1908; it was Fletcher Robinson who suggested the story to Pemberton, and Hugh Cooke and Paul Spiring, who edited this reprint, have added a preface and introductory notes that discuss both the book and the connections between the three men. There's a nice web-site at <www.mxpublishing.com> with a nice discount offer for readers of this newsletter; the promo code is [scuttlebutt] (25% off on all books, and a surprise bonus book if you buy two or more books).
40. The Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. is a British-registered company run by descendants of the Doyle family, and beneficiaries of the estate of his daughter, the late Dame Jean Conan Doyle, and there's more information about the company at their web-site <www.conandoyleestate.co.uk>. The three directors of the company are Richard Doyle and his sister Cathy Doyle Beggs, children of Sir Arthur's nephew the late Brigadier John Doyle, and Richard Pooley, a step-grandchild of Dame Jean. And among the family members party to it are Charles Foley, grandson of Sir Arthur's sister Ida, and Georgina Doyle, the Brigadier's widow. The agents of CDE Ltd. are Jon Lellenberg in the U.S. and Robert Kirby of United Agents in London.
41. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for Edgars (the winners will be announced at the MWA banquet in New York on Apr. 26. Steve Doyle's SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES has been nominated for best critical/ biographical. And the Robert L. Fish Memorial Award (for best first short story by an American author) has been won by Evan Lewis for "Skylar Hobbs and the Rabbit Man" (a nice comic mystery about a modern would-be Sherlock Holmes that appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine).
42. There's a nice article about the University of Minnesota's Sherlock Holmes Collections, and their curator Tim Johnson, in the Chronicle of Higher Education (Jan. 16) <www.chronicle.com/article/article-content/125958>.
43. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' article about Richard Caplan (who corresponded with Sherlock Holmes in the 1990s), Jon Lellenberg's "50 Years Ago" tribute to Julian Wolff (describing his parody "Still Waters" and his work as the Baker Street Irregulars' Commissionaire), and news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
44. "Holmes & Watson Save the Empire: A Musical Mystery" will be performed at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre from Apr. 6 through June 5. Written by Jahanna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner, the play premiered (as "Holmes & Watson: A Musical Mystery") in Milwaukee in 2009. The theater's address is Hargadine Street, Ashland, OR 97520 (541-488-2902) <www.oregoncabaret.com>.
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45. Jan 11 #7: Jason Rouby ("Vanderbilt and the Yeggman") died on Jan. 15. He was a journalist, a regional planner, and an enthusiastic Sherlockian, contributing to the literature in the 1960s and 1970s. He was a member of the Maiwand Jezails in Omaha and then founded The Arkansas Valley Investors, Ltd., in Little Rock, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1968. An interesting memorial to him, prepared by his grandson David Aaron Rouby, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGC7DPUvb5Y>.
46. Forecast: THE MAGIC BULLET: A LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY FEATURING SHADWELL RAFFERTY AND SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Larry Millett (from the University of Minnesota Press in April).
47. Some years ago (Nov 94 #2) Gibraltar issued eight one-crown coins honoring "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (six of the designs with Canonical scenes, the seventh showing Watson and Holmes meeting Conan Doyle in Baker Street, and the eighth the Mary Celeste, which is noted as "Gibraltar's own story of the great detective"). Stan Hill is offering a complete set of the cupro-nickel coins for \$80.00 (rather less than you'll pay at eBay); you can send him an e-mail message <stanhill@richerassociates.com> or call him at (845-518-9093) to confirm that someone else hasn't already taken advantage of the offer.
48. "Cold Hearted Murder" is a new pastiche written by Stephen Gaspar, available chapter by chapter on the Internet at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com> (the first chapter was posted on Jan. 22, and others will follow).
49. Tweet, tweet. "Twitter is a rich source of instantly updated information," according to the web-site at <www.twitter.com>. I'm not sure who the first Sherlockian to tweet was (Scott Monty, Laurie R. King, and Les Klinger have been tweeting for a while), but there are now tweets from The Baker Street Journal, thanks to editor Steve Rothman <www.twitter.com/BakerStJournal>.
50. Further to the item about the miniature of 221B Baker Street in the Samie Jane Keith Collection at the World Museum of Mining (Jul 10 #7), Mike Berdan has visited the museum, and was thoroughly impressed; there's more information about the collection at <www.miningmuseum.org/samiekeith.html>.
51. Michael Robertson's THE BAKER STREET LETTERS (Jun 09 #3) has been reissued in a trade paperback edition (New York: Minotaur, 2011; 277 pp., \$13.99). The second book in the series, THE BROTHERS OF BAKER STREET, will be published by Minotaur in March (\$24.99) "the letters to Sherlock Holmes are piling up—including one from someone who claims to be the descendant of Professor James Moriarty".
52. THE GALACTIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (Don Hobbs' electronic bibliography of translations) has been updated, and edition 11.01 includes Mando'a, making the bibliography truly galactic. Mando'a (which also is known as Mandalorian) is the language of Mandalore, which can be found in the Star Trek "expanded universe" novels written by Karen Traviss. You can read "Te Ge'Tal-Headed League" at <www.tinyurl.com/2dl2saj>. The bibliography on CD costs \$15.00 (to the U.S.)/\$20.00 (elsewhere), from Don at 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <221b@verizon.net>; Don offers a free CD to those who contribute information on something not already in the bibliography.
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53. Jan 11 #8: It's always interesting when Sherlockians bring their own knowledge and experience to bear on Canonical research: Walter W. Jaffee is a captain in the merchant marine and he has written THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ILLUSTRATED CYCLOPEDIA OF NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE (Palo Alto: Glencannon Books, 2009; 242 pp., \$39.95 hardcover and signed, \$24.95 paper). He offers informed definitions and descriptions of relevant aspects of the Canon, and he casts his net widely, covering waters both salt and fresh; the book has a bonus appendix with Michael H. Kean's "Who Was Bruce-Partington?"
54. "Big Nate" is a comic strip written and drawn by Lincoln Peirce, and there was a Sherlockian story arc from Jan. 14 through Jan. 22. you can see the comic strip at <www.comics.com/big_nate>.

55. WATSON'S AFGHAN ADVENTURE, by Kieran McMullen (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 216 pp., £9.99/E12.99/\$16.95), is a Watsonian pastiche that offers his own account of his adventures in Afghanistan, which were far more colorful than his brief report in the Canon; it's a story of romance and treasure and the battles of the Afghan War.
56. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ZOMBIE PROBLEM, by Nick S. Thomas (Newport: Swordworks, 2010; 254 pp., \$9.99), is a retelling of "The Final Problem". Except for the zombies, and the guns, swords, wholesale slaughter, and narrow escapes.
57. The official opening ceremony for the new research room at the Conan Doyle Archive in Portsmouth will be held on Feb. 21, with Conan Doyle biographer Andrew Lycett, academic expert Neil McCaw, and other local experts on hand, launching a week of events that will show the breadth of Richard Lancelyn Green's bequest of his collection to Portsmouth. There's more information available at <www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=179482045406255&index=1>, and soon at <www.conandoyllecollection.co.uk>.
58. As (as usual, nowadays) there is more news from the world of film and television. Warner Bros. is hard at work getting publicity for its sequel to "Sherlock Holmes": "Entertainment Tonight" visited the set, and footage of Downey in disguise as a woman went viral on the Internet; <www.youtube.com> has it, if you search for [robert downey jr in drag].
59. The electronic universe continues to make life interesting, and easier for people who have access to the Internet, and for people who know other people who volunteer to do the technical work required to make things easier. New from and about The Red Circle of Washington is available at the society's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>. And Scott Monty kindly is making this newsletter available at his blog, where you will be able to click on links rather than laboriously type or cut-and-paste URLs into your browser; go to <www.bakerstreetblog.com/search/label/scuttlebutt> to see how much fun this can be (for readers, and for me, since Scott is doing almost all the work). Searchable text of all the issues of Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press since March 1985 continues to be available at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>.

60. Feb 11 #1: Graham Moore's THE SHERLOCKIAN (Nov 10 #8) has been published in Britain as THE HOLMES AFFAIR (London: Century, 2011; 368 pp., £12.99), perhaps because the publisher thought British book-buyers may not be sure just what a Sherlockian is. The late John Bennett Shaw liked to explain the difference: in the U.S. the Holmesians are called Sherlockians, and in the U.K. the Sherlockians are called Holmesians. I'm not aware of any definitive pronunciation for "Holmesian".
61. Graham continues to update his web-site <www.thesherlockian.com>, where you can watch an interview that ran on the BBC, and listen to an interview by John Rabe (son of the late Bill Rabe) on KPCC-FM (Los Angeles).
62. Flo Gibson died on Jan. 7. After working as an actress on radio, she recording talking books for the blind for the Library of Congress in the mid-1970s and went on to found Audio Book Contractors, which specializes in unabridged readings of the classics. She narrated more than 1,100 books, including many of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian works, and 95 of her recordings are available at <www.audible.com>.
63. Paul Spiring continues to update his Bertram Fletcher Robinson web-site at <www.bfronline.biz>, where you can listen to a recent interview on BBC Radio Wales.
64. Carl Heifetz and Mary Ellen Rich spotted 19-year-old Richard Dornbush, who competed (and placed second) in the U.S. Figure Skating Championships last month, skating to Hans Zimmer's music for Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" (2009). You can see him perform at <www.youtube.com>; search for [dornbush 2011].
65. "Holmes, Watson, Move Forward" was the headline on an AP story in the Albany Times Union (Feb. 26) about the Match Play Championship in Marana, Ariz. J. B. Holmes and Bubba Watson are golfers; they made it to the quarter-finals (competing against each other). Watson won, but lost the semi-finals.
66. "Murder at Mount Hope Mansion" is an interactive dinner-theater performance (with Holmes and Watson in the cast) on weekends at the Mount Hope Estate & Winery from Mar. 4 through Apr. 9 during the Pennsylvania Renaissance Fair; the menu will feature items from Julie Rosenblatt and Fritz Sonnenschmidt's DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES. 2775 Lebanon Road, Mannheim, PA 17545 (717-665-7021) <www.parenfaire.com>.
67. "Enticement from the Adventures" is the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 8-10; their mailing list is maintained by Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@gmail.com>.
68. Paul Spiring spotted a report in the Guardian (Feb. 1) on "The U.K.'s Crime Hotspots" that includes statistics on London's "crime and antisocial behavior" from a web-site at <www.police.uk>, where you can see how your street or neighborhood is doing. In Dec. 2010, "Baker Street, residence of Sherlock Holmes, recorded 22 offenses--plenty for the sleuth to work on."

69. Feb 11 #2: Lybrary.com, founded in 2000 by Chris Wasshuber, with the idea of making hard-to-get magic books available in electronic form, also has fiction and non-fiction available, but of particular interest to magicians is Stephen Tucker's SHERLOCK (\$15.00), which offers instructions for five "self-working Holmes-related mysteries to baffle the cleverest of minds." You can order at <www.lybrary.com/sherlock-p-94740.html>. But you aren't going to be able to use the instructions unless you know how to do a false shuffle. Thanks to Dan Stashower for discovering the book.
70. John Barry died on Jan. 30. He described himself as a "musical dramatist" and composed and conducted music for more than 100 films, winning five Oscars and composing what he called "million-dollar Mickey Mouse music" for many of the James Bond films; his credits include writing and supervising the music for the film "They Might Be Giants" (1971), which starred George C. Scott as a psychotic judge who thinks he's Sherlock Holmes.
71. The late Laverne Sullivan was an accomplished miniaturist, and you can go to <www.home-and-garden.webshots.com/album/207383548yFjQV?start=24> to see two photographs of her Sherlock Holmes room-box, Kelly Blau reports.
72. "The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes" (Jul 10 #3), an interesting one-hour video with interviews with Roger Johnson, Catherine Cooke, Owen Dudley Edwards, and others, was issued earlier this year in Britain; it's now available on a region 1 DVD (\$19.99) from Kultur International Films (800-573-3782) <www.kultur.com>. Kultur also offers a region 1 DVD (\$14.99) of "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It" (1977), the amusing and weird British television program that starred John Cleese (Arthur Sherlock-Holmes) and Arthur Lowe (Dr. William Watson).
73. David Belke's play "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" (1992) is being performed by the Central Alberta Theatre at the Black Knight Inn Dinner Theatre in Red Deer through Mar. 26; 2929 50th Avenue, Red Deer, AB T4R 1H1, Canada (800-661-8793) <www.centralalbertatheatre.ca>.
74. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-2.htm>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, including some attractive lapel pins, and photographs from a meeting of The Fresh Rashers of Estero Island (yes, that's a Sherlockian society).
75. Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" (1978) will be performed by Theatre Three from Aug. 5 through Sept. 5; 2800 Routh Street #168, Dallas, TX 75201 (214-871-3300) <www.theatre3dallas.com>.

76. Synergy Entertainment's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION: VOLUME TWO is a three-DVD set (\$24.95) that's a worthy companion to the first volume (Nov 09 #7). Produced by Ronnie James, one of the earliest and most energetic collectors of old and not-so-old films, the new set also offers some unusual items, some of them available for the first time on commercial DVD; the more unusual items include the Our Gang comedy "The Mysterious Mystery!" (1924), "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1942) and its Spanish version "Sherlock Holmes y La Mira Secreta"), and a (non-Sherlockian) screen test with Nigel Bruce and Leslie Banks (1934).
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77. Feb 11 #3: You can add Brazil to the list of countries with Sherlockians, and a Sherlockian society: Carlos Orsi Martinho and two friends have founded the Isadora Klein Amateur Mendicant Society. His address is r. Zacarias de Goes, 404, ap. 92, Jundiai-SP 13201-800, Brazil; his essay on "The Brazilian Villainesses of the Canon" is in the winter 2010 issue of The Baker Street Journal.
78. Eugen Sandow became famous as a champion of "physical culture" and in 1901 he arranged a competition at the Royal Albert Hall to find the man with the world's best physique; Conan Doyle was one of the judges, and wrote a foreword to Sandow's book THE CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HUMAN BODY (1907). Ann Marlowe has reported that there's an interesting discussion of Sandow at <www.thehumanmarvels.com/?p=138>, with a link to YouTube video of a short film made of Sandow by the Edison Studios in 1894 (and YouTube has a second film of Sandow made in 1903). And there's much more about Sandow at <www.sandowplus.co.uk/sandowindex.htm>.
79. Ines Hall died on Oct. 29, 2010. She was the widow of Christopher Morley's colleague (and early Irregular) William S. Hall, and she was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *The Woman* in 1973.
80. Philip K. Jones has compiled (and continues to compile) an excellent data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction; he had entries for 5,520 different items some years ago (Apr 06 #6), and his count now stands at more than 8,500. The data base is interesting and informative, and available on-line at <www.michael-procter.com/holmes>.
81. Tim Johnson continues to add digitized images and audio to the University of Minnesota's new UMedia Archive's section for their Sherlock Holmes Collections <www.umedialib.mn.edu/taxonomy/term/740>; if you search for [sherlock holmes] you will find a nicely indexed display of (at the moment) 484 entries.
82. There has been quite a bit of publicity this month about the appearance of Watson on "Jeopardy" (that's I.B.M.'s computer, rather than the doctor, although some writers don't know that the computer wasn't named for the doctor). Doug Elliott notes an interesting article in the N.Y. Times Magazine <www.nytimes.com/2010/06/20/magazine/20computer-t.html?pagewanted=all> back in June that explains how the computer might respond to "The name of this hat is elementary, my dear contestant." Watson won handily, defeating two reigning (human) champions.
83. Kieran McMullan, author of WATSON'S AFGHAN ADVENTURE (Jan 11 #6) has some interesting posts at <www.kieranmcmullen.wordpress.com>, including (in December) the results of his research into "The Weapons of Maiwand".
84. If you missed the "Bloch Sherlock Holmes Camera" at auction some months ago (Nov 09 #6), Cliff Goldfarb has spotted another one (well, perhaps the same one) offered by Auction Team Breker in Cologne on Mar. 26; it's a magazinestyle camera disguised as a small briefcase (dated c.1912). There are photographs at <www.breker.com/english/index.htm>; click on "New Highlights" at the right and then on "Photographica & Film". It's estimated at £10,000 to £15,000, with a reserve of £6,500.
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85. Feb 11 #4: THE BROTHERS OF BAKER STREET, by Michael Robertson (New York: Minotaur, 2011; 274 pp., \$24.99), is an imaginative sequel to his THE BAKER STREET LETTERS (Jun 09 #3): Reggie Heath, a London barrister who has offices at 221B Baker Street, is pursuing another murderer, and the author of a letter to Holmes from someone who claims to be a descendant of Professor Moriarty, and the mystery offers interesting twists and turns.
86. Anthony Trongone's TRADING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: BALANCING PROBABILITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL INVESTING (Cedar Falls: Traders Press, 2010; 186 pp., \$24.95) uses quotations from the Canon to describe both the market and market forces, and to illustrate his approach to investing: analysis and discipline. The publisher's at <www.traderspress.com>.
87. Randall Stock has reported some important and useful additions to The Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>: downloadable PDF files of Donald A. Redmond's Cumulated Indexes to the BSJ for 1946-1969 and 1970-1993, Randall's tips on searching the indexes on the CD-ROM version of the BSJ for 1946-2000, and Adrian Nebbett's indexes to eight of the books published by The Baker Street Irregulars in recent years.
88. Henry Zecher reports a new 30-minute television series "Portlandia" broadcast by IFC cable; the first episode ("Farm") had a four-minute "Hide and Seek" segment showing the Sherlock Holmes in a game of hide and seek. You watch the segment at <www.ifc.com/videos/portlandia-hide-and-seek>.
89. Crowborough, which for some years has had a handsome statue of Conan Doyle (Apr 01 #3), now has additional honors for him in a local housing estate: the town council has approved the names of Sherlock Shaw and Watson Way for two roads in the Antler Homes development. Crowborough also has a block of flats known as Conan Doyle Court, and in Whitehall Road a Windlesham Close (named after his home on Hurtis Hill).
90. Ken Lanza spotted a report that Christopher Lee received a Fellowship Award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts this month; it's the highest award that BAFTA bestows. Lee is credited by the Guinness Book of Movie Facts and Feats as the international star with the most screen credits (including Sherlock Holmes, Mycroft Holmes, and Sir Henry Baskerville).
91. "Two Great Capitals--Two Great Detectives" is an exhibition that opened at the Russian State Library for the Arts in Moscow on Feb. 15 and will close on Mar. 5; the capitals are London and Moscow, and the detectives are Sherlock Holmes and Boris Akunin's Erast Fandorin. The Voice of Russia had an interesting article on Feb. 15 <english.ruvr.ru/_print/44488963.html>, and there's a web-site for the exhibition <www.liart.ru/site/index.php?id=1330> (the web-site's in Russian, but Google Translate will give you a good idea of what it has to say in English, and in other languages).
92. Byook is a French company that has created a new version of "The Speckled Band" in which the text is enhanced with sound and visual effects; it plays on iPods and iPads, and you can see a brief teaser at <www.byook.com>. The cost is \$1.99/£1.91, but (according to an analysis in the Scotsman on Feb. 18) you don't get the whole story; a third of the way through have to pay again to find out what happens next.
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93. Feb 11 #5: Reported: Michael Foster and Barbara Foster, in their A DANGEROUS WOMAN: THE LIFE, LOVES, AND SCANDALS OF ADAH ISAACS MENKEN, 1836-1968, AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SUPERSTAR (Guilford: Lyons Press, 2011; 368 pp., \$24.95), say that "Her memory has captivated Arthur Conan Doyle, Jerome Kern, Billy Rose, and George Cukor, and she has been played in movies by Sophia Loren, Charlotte Rampling, and almost by Marilyn Monroe." They suggest that Irene Adler was a "miniature portrait" by Conan Doyle, but do not mention William D. Jenkins, who proposed in the Mar. 1986 issue of The Baker Street Journal that Menken was the prototype for Irene Adler; Charlotte Rampling never played Menken on the screen, but did play Irene in the television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1979).

94. OTHER PEOPLE'S BOOKS: ASSOCIATION COPIES AND THE STORIES THEY TELL (Chicago: The Caxton Club, 2011; 214 pp., \$75.00) will be published next month; it's a collection of essays, including Jon Lellenberg's "The Hound upon My Bookshelf", which is Vincent Starrett's own (and extra illustrated) copy of the first edition. The book's available at <www.oakknoll.com>, where there links to an excerpt from the book, and to the table of contents.
95. The Caxton Club and the Newberry Library will hold a symposium on the book at the Newberry (60 West Walton Street in Chicago) on Mar. 19; it's open to the public, and details are available at <www.caxtonclub.org>. You can also click on "Meetings and Speakers Schedule" for a catalog of DVDs of Caxton Club presentations available for purchase, including "Sherlock Holmes, Vincent Starrett, and Literary Memory" (Jon Lellenberg in 1998), "Spitons and Spiritualism: Conan Doyle in America" (Daniel Stashower in 2001), and "Mothers, Don't Let Your Sons Grow Up to Be Biographers" (Jon Lellenberg in 2008).
96. Stephen Gaspar is continuing the chapter-by-chapter posting of his pastiche "Cold Hearted Murder" (Jan 11 #1) at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com>, and there's a promo video for the book at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydPh44KG1I>.
97. Detective Chimp wore Sherlockian costume in the first issue of the comic-book mini-series THE HELMET OF FATE (Feb 07 #6), and there's now a hand-painted 4-inch lead figurine, accompanied by a magazine detailing the history of the character (spotted by Mitch Higurashi); it's available at eBay <www.ebay.com> and elsewhere.
98. Scott Monty has launched an effort to catalog the "Sherlockian Entities on Facebook", where you can find a list (with links) and a form you can use to report additions <www.bakerstreetblog.com/p/holmes-on-facebook.html>. It is fascinating to see the Sherlockian aspects of social networking.
99. Greg Darak notes that the world-famous detective Merlock Jones appeared (in Sherlockian costume) in E. C. Segar's "Popeye" 1930s comic strip, and that the strips have been reprinted in POPEYE, VOL. 3: LET'S YOU AND HIM FIGHT! (Seattle: Fantagraphics, 2008; 168 pp. \$29.99). Greg also reports that the book is available for \$9.95 from Edward R. Hamilton (Box 15, Falls Village, CT 06031) <www.edwardrhamilton.com>.

100. Feb 11 #6: Laurie King reports that her schedule's now set for four years: 2011 will see Mary Russell in THE PIRATE KING, with another Mary Russell in 2012, a sequel to the non-Russell TOUCHSTONE in 2013, and another Mary Russell in 2014. Her web-site at <www.laurierking.com> always is interesting; one of the features is A MARY RUSSELL COMPANION, a 58-page booklet you can download free.
101. A new set of miniature versions of the Canon, created by Lee Ann Borgia, is available at <www.picturetrail.com/leeann1948>, where she offers miniatures of a long list of authors; her Sherlockian miniatures (priced from \$11.75 to \$19.50) are shown at <www.picturetrail.com/sfx/album/view/3194486>.
102. The stick figure of Sherlock Holmes on the note cards from Bas Bleu (Aug 10 #3) first appeared in Jeffrey Metzner's book STICK: GREAT MOMENTS IN ART, HISTORY, FILM, AND MORE (Clarkson Potter, 2006) (and published in Britain by Aurum Press, 2007) it's out of print, but readily available from on-line booksellers.
103. "Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle get drawn into investigating a series of brutal murders in 1920s Los Angeles" in a graphic novel EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN written by Jon Vinson and illustrated by Marco Roblin and published by Dub Comics in 2010; H. P. Lovecraft appears. It's available as a four-issue comic-book mini-series and as a collected edition (\$18.00) from Indy-Planet <www.indyplanet.com>. "Charles Fort will be a big part of EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN VOL. 2," Vinson promises.
104. Forecast: THE BASKERVILLE LEGACY: A CONFESSION, by John O'Connell (due from Short Books in Sept.); "a thrilling exploration of friendship and rivalry, love and lust, ambition and the limits of talent" (the story of how Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson collaborated to write "The Hound of the Baskervilles").
105. "Her planned novel is inspired by Sherlock Holmes and American crime writer Mickey Spillane," according the Guardian (Jan. 27) in a story about Patti Smith, who is a singer, song-writer, poet, and author of more than a dozen books; this will be her first detective story.
106. Oh for the days when Britain invented the penny post: their postage rates will increase in April. At the moment a one-ounce letter inside the country costs £0.41/\$0.65, and to the U.S. £1.46/\$2.35 (by airmail) or £1.00/\$1.61 (by surface). In the U.S. a one-ounce letter costs \$0.44 inside the country, and \$0.98 to Britain.
107. Further to the various celebrations this year of the centenary of his paper "Studies on the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", Michael Procter reports that there's a Ronald Knox Society of North America, with a nice discussion of his contributions to detective literature <www.ronaldknoxsociety.com>.
108. IDW Publishing has now published three volumes of its SHERLOCK HOLMES series, with striking artwork by Kelley Jones; they're sometimes described as graphic novels, but in reality they present the text (handsomely designed), with full-color illustrations. They're priced at \$16.99 or \$17.99, and you can see Jones' art at the publisher's web-site <www.idwpublishing.com>.

109. Feb 11 #7: "From 1984 to 1994, a perfect storm of people and circumstances changed the face of animation forever," is Disney's description of a 86-minute documentary "Waking Sleeping Beauty" (2009), which includes footage from "The Great Mouse Detective" (1984); the film premiered at the Telluride Film Festival on Sept. 5, 2009, and was released by Walt Disney Home Entertainment on a DVD (\$29.99) last November (the trailer can be seen at the Internet Movie Data Base).
110. Neil Hunt and Stephen Harvey Johnson have launched an Internet-only comedy series called "The Blog of Dr. Watson" at <www.drwatsonsblog.com>, with a brief video teaser.
111. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: Final Adventure" is being performed at the Grand Theatre through Mar. 5; Chris Redmond has seen the production, and recommends it. 471 Richmond Street, London, ON N6A 3E4, Canada (800-265-1593) <www.grandtheatre.com>.
112. Entertainment news: Variety reported (Feb. 9) that DreamWorks purchased a script for "Voices from the Dead" from J. Michael Straczynski (who created and wrote the television series "Babylon 5" and "Jeremiah"). The project "centers on a fictional story of magician Harry Houdini and Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle using a psychic to solve a set of murders in New York during the 1920s."
113. And there's more: according to the web-site Deadline Hollywood (Feb. 11), the Syfy television channel is at work on a dramatic series "Among the Spirits" based on a self-published graphic novel by Steve Valentine and Paul Chart; the series was described as a turn-of-the-century "Fringe" in which Houdini and Conan Doyle, "with the help of a female cop, try to solve bizarre murders and strange occurrences that look like hauntings and other supernatural events using steampunk technology."
114. And yet still more: according to the Hollywood Reporter (Feb. 18), Summit Entertainment has hired Noah Oppenheim to write a script based on William Kalush and Larry Sloman's THE SECRET LIFE OF HOUDINI: THE MAKING OF AMERICA'S FIRST SUPERHERO (Mar 07 #5); the book suggested that Houdini acted as a spy for Britain, and that Houdini's death was not accidental, but rather deliberate murder, by a spiritualist organization that sought revenge for his unmasking of fraudulent mediums (with, of course Conan Doyle involved). The paper added that "the studio is not looking to make a

- biopic but rather an action thriller featuring a character who is part Indiana Jones and part Sherlock Holmes, documenting his rise as a magician along with his covert involvement with the Secret Service."
115. Finally, Warner Bros. has announced that "Sherlock Holmes 2" (the working title for the sequel to Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes") will be released as "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" on Dec. 16. One assumes they are not worried about confusing people who recall the book written by Mark Fairanu-Wada and Lance Williams: *GAME OF SHADOWS: BARRY BONDS, BALCO, AND THE STEROIDS SCANDAL THAT ROCKED PROFESSIONAL SPORTS* (2007).

 116. Mar 11 #1: The number of Sherlockian societies with web-sites continues to grow, and The Pleasant Places of Florida have done well at capturing and presenting their history and their archives <www.ppoofl.net>. If you'd like to browse web-sites of other societies, Chris Redmond has an excellent set of links at his "Web Portal about the Great Detective" <www.sherlockian.net>; click on [Societies and events].
 117. "Ha Ha Holmes! The Beast of the Blistervilles" opened at the Croydon Warehouse Theatre on Mar. 11 and will run through Apr. 3, then going on tour in Britain; it's a "gripping comedic thriller" from London-based Jamie Wilson Productions, and there's more information (including tour dates) at their web-site <www.jamiewilsonproductions.com> (reported by Phil Attwell).
 118. Further to the discussion of miniature versions of the Canon (Feb 11 #6), Don Pollock reports a miniature *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* from Miniaturbuchverlag Leipzig (2007), bound in leather and in two sizes: 18x25 mm (\$69.00 in a gilt box) and 38x53 mm (\$29.00 in a slipcase and \$44.80 gildedged). You can see both sizes in color at <www.miniboox.de>; their mailing address is Isarweg 2 c, D-85375 Neufarn bei Freising, Germany.
 119. Jane Russell died on Feb 28. She made her movie debut and achieved instant stardom in "The Outlaw" (1943), and was once introduced by Bob Hope on radio as "the two and only Jane Russell." She made many more films, including "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1953), in which she told Elliott Reed (who played Detective Malone), "Go away, Sherlock! You're a wrong guy!"
 120. Andrew Lane was interviewed in the e-mail newsletter of Andrew Gulli's *The Strand Magazine*, and said that *A STUDY IN SCARLET* was one of the first two books he ever bought with his own pocket money, around 1974, when he was 11 or 12 years old; it was a second-hand 1930s reprint without a cover. Lane has completed the third book in his *YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES* series, and has signed a contract for a total of six books. The magazine's web-site is at <www.strandmag.com>.
 121. Karen Murdock offers e-mail copies of her paper on "Figures of Speech Found in the Sherlock Holmes Canon", giving definitions and examples of 35 figures of speech such as alliteration, aposiopesis, hendiadys, polysyndeton, simile, and zeugma. Her e-mail address is <murdock1212@gmail.com>.
 122. Karen also notes the Grammardog Guides, on-lines exercises that can be used to teach grammar, style, and proof-reading, available on CDs or as Internet downloads (\$14.95 each); go to <www.grammardog.com/samples.php> to see samples of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "Sherlock Holmes Stories".
 123. *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTED EDITION* was published by John Murray and Jonathan Cape in 1974 in nine volumes with introductions by noted authors, and is well-known to Sherlockian collectors; the publishers extended their uniform set from 1975 to 1979 to include non-Sherlockian titles, and they are worth pursuing: *SIR NIGEL* (introduction by Mary Renault), *THE WHITE COMPANY* (Anthony Burgess), *THE EXPLOITS OF GERARD* (Fitzroy MacLean), *ADVENTURES OF GERARD* (Elizabeth Longford), and *THE LOST WORLD* (Alistair Maclean).

 124. Mar 11 #2: Jane Royle died on Dec. 13. She was a highly-regarded film and television make-up artist who specialized in prosthetics she called "the stickies". Her long of film credits included "Who Framed Roger Rabbit", "Harry Potter", "Batman Begins", and "Young Sherlock Holmes"; the Guardian said in her obituary (Mar. 7) that for "Murder by Decree" (1979) she simulated "the wrenched-out innards of prostitutes killed by Jack the Ripper."
 125. The Livestock Players Youtheatre will present Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the City Arts Studio Theatre in Greensboro on May 19-22. 200 North Davis Street, Greensboro, NC 27401 (336-335-6426) <www.thedramacenter.com>.
 126. MPI Home Video has issued "The Complete Sherlock Holmes Collection" on DVDs (Apr 03 #4) with high-quality restorations of all 14 Rathbone/Bruce films, and with additional features that include new commentary by Patricia Morrison on "Dressed to Kill"; this month MPI released the collection as a highdefinition set of five Blu-ray disks (\$129.98).
 127. Ev Herzog spotted an advertisement for "Peeking Duck", one of a series of "Figures of Speech" sculptures by Marsha Tosk; it is hand-painted polyresin (with monocle) and 19½ inches high, and costs \$950.00. It's also far more attractive in full color at <www.mashatosk-figuresofspeech.com>, where you can see other sculptures in her series.
 128. The late Ian Richardson's ashes were buried last year at the new Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, in the foundations in front of the stage, at the bottom of the central aisle, according to a story in *The Times* (Nov. 22), noted by John Baesch; his son Miles, also an actor, said "My father will be in the front row for every performances and just where liked to be, center stage." Richardson was Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983), and Dr. Joseph Bell in "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (2000); he died in 2007.
 129. Did anyone know or know of Nicholas Francis Sardone? He was born in 1948, and died last month in Branchville, N.J., and he was an energetic collector of Sherlockiana, old and new (and was just as enthusiastic about "Snoopy" collectibles).
 130. Ken Lanza has discovered Street Jewelry Place at <www.jewelryonstreet.com>; it's a clearing house for people who sell more than jewelry, but their offers include "Baker Street Irregulars custom jewelry". You can also search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle].
 131. Reported: *THE QUEEN'S DOLLS' HOUSE*, by Lucinda Lambton (*The Royal Collection*, 2010, £12.95); in an excerpt in the *Telegraph Magazine* (Oct. 16), she notes that Ursula Ridley, daughter of the house's designer Edwin Lutyens, remembered Conan Doyle arriving at the Lutyens' home in Mansfield Street to hand-deliver the manuscript of the pastiche "How Watson Learned the Trick" (which is still in the library of the dolls' house at Windsor).

 132. Mar 11 #3: The first time that Peter Cook and Dudley Moore played Holmes and Watson was in a six-minute skit "Sherlock Holmes Investigates" in their ATV television series "Goodbye Again" in 1968, well before their version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978); the script for the skit was published in *GOODBYE AGAIN: THE DEFINITIVE PETER COOK AND DUDLEY MOORE* (Dec 06 #7), and the skit itself is available in the British DVD "The Very Best of Goodbye Again" (region 2 only). The skit is no more serious than the later film.
 133. Lloyd Rose discovered a web-site with some interesting Sherlockian artwork <www.spicysteweddemon.deviant.art.com/gallery/23656984> (sorry: black-and-white won't do justice to the full-color art at the web-site).
 134. "You are the stormy petrel of crime, Watson," Sherlock Holmes exclaimed (in "The Naval Treaty"). Sonia Fetherston has reported a story in the *Portland Oregonian* about two Portland birders who discovered a new species of stormy petrel during a visit to Chile. To read the story (and see a photograph), go to <www.oregonlive.com> and search for [storm petrel].
 135. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" runs through Apr. 17 at the Pacifica Spindrift Players Theatre (1050 Crespi Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044) (650-359-8002) <www.pacificaspindriftplayers.org>.

136. Laurie King is continuing to post at <www.astudyinsherlock.com> about the new anthology that she and Les Klinger are editing for Bantam Books. You can see the cover, and a list of contributors, and late-breaking news: the book will include Les' Twiterview (that's an interview in 140 characters) with Mary Russell.
137. Carl Heifetz notes that Brian Crane's "Pickles" (Mar. 8) was almost Canonical: Sherlock Holmes said (in "A Study in Scarlet") that "I consider that a man's brain originally is like a little empty attic, and you have to stock it with such furniture as you choose."
138. Ken Ludwig's new comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, on Holmes for the Holidays" was performed at a staged reading in Washington (Sep 10 #1), and it's nice news indeed that the play will have its world premiere at the Cleveland Play House, Nov. 25 to Dec. 18; 8500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44105 (216-795-7000) <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>. It's a murder mystery set in William Gillette's home, and it's wonderfully hilarious.

139. Mar 11 #4: The 9th annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Apr. 15-17; there will be a dinner at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, the 52nd annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. The registration form is available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
140. Danielle Corsetto's web-comic (that's an on-line comic strip) "Girls with Slingshots" featured Jamie McJack in Sherlockian costume as a "Romance Detective" (Dec 10 #4); Tina Rhea notes that a necklace pendant's available in antique silver (\$25.00) from the Girls with Slingshots Shop at <www.etsy.com/listing/70660207/girls-with-slingshots-necklace-jamie>.
141. The chapter "On Dress and Other Matters" in Michael Harrison's THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1972) offered an excellent summary of the clothes that Holmes and others wore, and now Jason Maclochlainn provides a detailed and discussion of how men's clothing actually was made in THE VICTORIAN TAILOR: AN INTRODUCTION TO PERIOD TAILORING (New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2011; 160 pp., \$29.99); the British edition, from Batsford, is VICTORIAN TAILORING: TECHNIQUES AND PATTERNS. MacLochlainn studied period training manuals and examined surviving garments to learn what tailors did, and explains in detail how costumers can create appropriately Victorian clothing reflecting a time when suits, vests, and coats were made to measure.
142. The Arizona Theatre Company has commissioned a new play by Jeffrey Hatcher: "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is based on Robert Louis Stevenson's story "The Suicide Club" and involves the club's new member, Sherlock Holmes. The play will be performed in Tucson (Sept. 17-Oct. 8) and Phoenix (Oct. 13-30); there's more information available at the ATC web-site <www.arizonatheatre.org>.
143. Allan Foster's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE LOCATIONS: A VISITOR'S GUIDE (Jefferson: McFarland & Co., 2011; 156 pp., \$35.00) offers a delightful exploration of Scotland and England; the author is a writer and tour operator in Edinburgh, where there's much to be found that relates to Arthur Conan Doyle, Joseph Bell, and others. And there's a lot to be learned from the coverage of England (both the counties and London). Foster would be a fine guide to it all, and his book is well-researched, written, and illustrated.
144. Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is at being performed at the Chautauqua Playhouse through Apr. 17; 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael, CA 95608 (916-489-7529) <www.cplayhouse.org>. And then at the Nevada Theatre from Apr. 22 through May 15; 401 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA 95959 (530-265-6161) <www.nevadatheatre.com>.
145. Paul W. Nash's pastiche "The Adventure of the Scarlet Thorn" was featured in the Feb. 2010 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (the annual tribute to the birthday of Sherlock Holmes), and it's one of seven pastiches in his collection THE REMAINS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Moreton-in-the-Marsh: Strawberry Books, 2011; 229 pp., £12.00); there's more adventure than mystery in some of the stories, and one might infer from the author's "editor's note" that there may be more tales to be told.

146. Mar 11 #5: Michael Gough died on Mar. 17. He made his acting debut at the Old Vic School in 1936, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television as a supporting actor. He was best known as Alfred the butler in four of the "Batman" films (1989-1997), and he played Russel Partridge in "The Case of the Perfect Husband" (1955) in the Ronald Howard television series, and the Governor in "Cell 13" (1973) in the series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes".
147. George John ("Sir Jasper Meek") died on Feb. 6. He had a long career as a doctor, in South Dakota, Nebraska (where he encountered the world of Sherlockians in The Maiwand Jezails), and Texas. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969.
148. Barnes & Noble continues to issue inexpensive reprints, including THE HORROR OF THE HEIGHTS AND OTHER STRANGE TALES (hardbound, \$6.98) has 14 of Conan Doyle's tales of the macabre.
149. Margaret Newman Turner's ARTHUR, LOUISE, AND THE TRUE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Almeley: Logaston Press, 2010; 98 pp., £10.00) tells the story of the Hound of the Vaughans of Hergest Court, and much more. The author is the daughter of Cecil P. Turner, who wrote to Conan Doyle enquiring if the family legend had inspired THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES; Conan Doyle replied that "My story was really based on nothing save a remark of my friend Fletcher Robinson's that there was a legend about a dog on the Moor connected with some old family. I had no place in my eye." The letter was sold at auction in 2008 for £3,700 (plus premium and tax), and the new book explores some additional connections: Hergest Court is in Herefordshire (on the border with Wales), and Mrs. Turner believes that Conan Doyle's first wife, Louise Hawkins, whose family owned land in the area, told the story of the spectral hound to her husband, and that her support also was important when he wrote the early Sherlock Holmes stories. Mrs. Turner relies on Georgina Doyle's OUT OF THE SHADOWS for family history, but tells interesting stories of her own about the Hawkins and Vaughan families. There's a BBC television news story at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxm1zgZl6i0> with an interview about Mrs. Turner and her book.
150. Derham Groves, the first Australian to become a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (in 1985, as "Black Jack of Ballarat"), has had a long career as architect, artist, and writer, and (thanks to the Internet) you can see his interest work at <www.derhamgroves.com/category/sherlock-holmes>, <special.lib.umn.edu/rare/exhibit/holmesgardens.html>, and <www.youtube.com>; search for [murderous melbourne] at YouTube.
151. Go to <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztKWKwBi2bQ> to see "The Adventures of Sherlock Hounds", an imaginative and amusing promotional video for the "Catch a Clue" summer reading program in the library system of King County, Wash.
152. The Byook version of "The Speckled Band" (created by a French company that enhances the text with sound and visual effects) is an interesting demonstration of how modern technology can be used by people who have iPods and iPads. You can see a brief teaser at <www.byook.com>, and the app can be downloaded for \$1.99/£1.91; the first half of the story is available now, and the second half in April (no additional charge).

153. Mar 11 #6: Al Gregory reports that Sutton Foster and Joel Grey are starring in a revival of Porter's classic musical "Anything Goes" (1934) at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre in New York; at one point the hero, trying to escape capture aboard ship, appears on deck in disguise with Inverness, deerstalker, calabash pipe, and an absurd beard. There's a brief glimpse in a video montage at <www.anythinggostonbroadway.com>.

154. Matthew Ward and Jimmy Black became famous when they solved the 'Jack the Ripper' murders in WR.Park's FATAL INCISION (2010), and PHANTOM HOUNDS: THE CURSE OF THE BASKERVILLES RETURNS (Castroville: Black Rose Writing, 2011; 236 pp., \$16.95) is the next adventure, bringing them to Dartmoor to solve a new mystery that involves a brief meeting with Sherlock Holmes, renewed danger to Sir Henry Baskerville, and (more than half the book) a perilous excursion to Egypt. The author's web-site is at <www.wrparkbooks.com>.
155. The 30th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, to be held in Dayton, Ohio, on May 13-16, has the theme "Holmes: Then, Now, & Forever"; Cathy Gill manages their mailing list (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
156. The Wildstorm comic-book five-issue mini-series VICTORIAN UNDEAD: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS DRACULA, written by Jim Edginton and with artwork by Horacio Domingues is complete with the May issue; presumably a graphic novel will appear soon. <www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics> is the URL for the publisher's web-site.
157. In other comic-book news, Image Comics will begin a MORIARTY mini-series, written by Daniel Corey and drawn by Anthony Diecidue, scheduled in stores in May; there's more information, and cover art, at Charles Prepolec's web-site at <www.sherlocknews.com>.
158. H.R.F. Keating died on Mar. 27. He was a fine writer, best known for his "Inspector Ghote" stories, and an expert commentator on mystery and crime fiction. He also wrote Sherlockian pastiches, and co-wrote the Christopher Lee television film "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (1991), and his THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1979) was a splendid piece of scholarship.
159. Mitch Higurashi and Yuichi Hirayama report that Sherlockians in Japan all seem to have survived the earthquake and tsunami. There's still great concern about the reactors and fuel-rod pools, of course, and much to be done to assist refugees from the area directly affected.
160. Darlene Cypser's THE CRACK IN THE LENS (Morrison: Foolsap & Quill, 2010; 286 pp., \$14.95) is a well-written story of Sherlock Holmes' early life in Yorkshire, with his father Siger Holmes, his brothers Sherrinford and Mycroft, his tutor Prof. James Moriarty, and a local girl named Violet Rushdale. There's romance and adventure, nice local flavor, and a good look at what set young Sherlock on the path to becoming what he is in the Canonical tales. Cypser has an excellent web-site at <www.crackinthelens.com>, with excerpts and easy access to various ways to buy the book.

161. Apr 11 #1: Karen Ellery reports that WGBH-TV has a splendid web-site for various Sherlockian programs that have aired on "Masterpiece Theatre": "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (2005), "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002), and "Murder Rooms" (1999 and 2001). Visit the over-all web-site at <www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/silkstocking/retro.html> to find all sorts of useful content, including a comparison of three versions of a scene in "The Hound of the Baskervilles": the text from the story, the script, and video of the scene as broadcast.
162. Al Gregory notes that the Undershaw Preservation Trust is selling items on eBay to benefit their campaign: a badge (lapel pin) for £7.99 and a set of postcards (one signed by their patron Mark Gatiss) for £51.00. You can go to <www.ebay.com> or <www.ebay.co.uk> and search for [undershaw].
163. Eric Simonson's play "Fake" premiered at a reading in New York in 2008 and was performed in Chicago in 2009, and tells the story of the Piltdown hoax ("it's a time-traveling mystery drama revolving around a house party held by Sir Arthur Conan"); it was recorded by L.A. Theatre Works and released in their Audio Theatre Collection last year as a 2-CD set (\$25.95); Francis Guinan played Conan Doyle. Their recording of "The Lost World" (adapted by John de Lancie and Nat Segalof) was issued as a single CD in 2009 (\$13.22) The company's web-site is at <www.latw.org>.
164. <www.zavvi.com> is an excellent British source for discounted DVDs, including some older Sherlockian and Doylean DVDs not often seen at American web-sites.
165. THE MUPPET SHOW: SEASON ONE (SPECIAL EDITION) is a four-DVD set issued in 2005 (\$39.99) with the original pitch reel, the original pilot, and all of the season's programs, including the one with Joel Grey as the guest star, which is of interest because it included "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Disappearing Clues" (starring Rowlf as Holmes, Baskerville the Hound as Watson, Miss Piggy as the maid, and Gorgon Heap as the butler). And if you don't remember it, the reason is that it was cut from the program when it aired in the U.S. on Oct. 18, 1976. But the segment did air in Britain and fortunately is included in the set of DVDs.
166. YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: RED LEECH (London: Macmillan Children's Books, 2011; 339 pp., £6.99) is the second book in Andrew Lane's well-written series for young adults; Sherlock Holmes is 14 years old and involved in desperate adventures. The series has an excellent web-site at <www.youngsherlock.com>, with features such as the original proposal and author's notes, and (if you sign up for their newsletter) deleted scenes and other items of interest. An American edition is due later this year. And the next book in the series will be BLACK ICE.
167. Anthony D. P. Mann's film "Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow Watchers" (Jun 10 #1) had its premiere at the Empire Theatre in Kingston on Apr. 6; the film is scheduled for release on DVD later this year. You can see a six-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxqN3tfdlp8&feature=player_embedded>. Mann's web-site is at <www.anthonypmann.com>.

168. Apr 11 #2: "The Writing of my Autograph/Makes me nearly frantic/But all is well today. We're half/Way over the Atlantic!!" That's a bit of verse that Conan Doyle wrote to accompany his autograph on Apr. 5, 1922 (aboard the *Baltic*, en route to the United States for the lecture tour he described in OUR AMERICAN ADVENTURE). Framed and glazed, and with a photograph of Sir Arthur, it was offered at auction by William J. Jenack on Apr. 17, estimated at \$800-\$1200.
169. "As Sherlock Holmes would have no doubt said to his sidekick, 'Baker Street Recordings are mighty spiffing, it's elementary, my dear Watson,'" is the motto of a company spotted by Jerry Margolin. It's based in Leeds, and was founded in 2006 by Paul Hardy and Jacob Kelly; they specialize in "house music" (a style of electronic dance music), and you can go to <www.bakerstreetrecordings.com> to listen to some of their musicians. Downloads can be purchased at <www.amazon.com> and other web-sites (where they use a different version of the silhouette).
170. "Set in a Victorian world where Sherlock Holmes is king, four lesser-known detectives are pitted against one another," is the premise of "The Rivals", a BBC radio drama written by Chris Harrald and due in October (spotted by Phil Attwell).
171. Information for people who don't have e-readers but want to read e-books: Darlene Cypser reports that Amazon is happy to let you download free software so that you can read Kindle editions of books on your desk-top or laptop or just about any hand-held device. Barnes & Noble does the same for their Nook editions.
172. "H2G2: The Guide to Life, the Universe, and Everything" is an interesting BBC on-line collaborative encyclopedia project (similar to a wiki), and one of entries is an informative discussion of the film "The Lost World" (1925) <www.bbc.co.uk/h2g2/entry/A83345132>. The web-site was founded in 1999 by Douglas Adams (author of THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY), and if you would like to buy it, it's for sale: the BBC announced in January that the BBC Online budget will be cut by £34 million, and they plan to dispose of H2G2. The BBC is funded by license fees that no longer increase to match the inflation rate (a license for a color television set now is £145.50 a year, and a black-and-white set costs £49.00 a year).
173. Ask Jeeves (the British version of the web-search Ask.com) commissioned a survey after noticing an increase in the number of queries received asking for biographies and other personal details such as a family tree for fictional characters, according to an article in the Daily Mail (Apr. 5); the survey

- polled 1,000 adults discovered that 21% thought Sherlock Holmes was a real person. One third of those surveyed believed that Long John Silver was real, and Robin Hood won the support of two thirds.
174. Additional thanks to Gary for news of Conan Doyle's amusing appearance on "A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor" on American Public Media (Oct. 16, 2010), in a six-minute segment from "the adventures of Ruth Harrison, reference librarian" You can read the script (and listen to the segment) at <www.prairiehome.publicradio.org/2010/10/16/scripts/ruth.shtml>.

 175. Apr 11 #3: Larry Millett's pastiches set in Minnesota began with SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (Sep 96 #5) and went on through four more books, eventually involving colorful Saint Paul saloon keeper Shadwell Rafferty, who also is an ingenious detective. THE MAGIC BULLET (University of Minnesota Press, 2011; 347 pp., \$24.95) offers a complicated locked-room murder mystery investigated and eventually solved by Rafferty, with a bit of assistance from Holmes from London.
 176. The University of Minnesota Press also is reissuing Millett's earlier pastiches, starting with SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (319 pp.) and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS (320 pp.); \$14.95 each. Holmes and Watson travel to Minnesota to solve both mysteries.
 177. Kelly Blau has discovered Watson, who is a cute little raccoon as well as an "interactive story buddy" designed to help young people learn to read: you read the book aloud and whenever he hears certain phrases he responds. For \$34.89 you get Watson and the first book (WATSON AND THE CASE OF THE SNEAKY STEALER), and he will interact with two more books (THE MISSING ACORN and THE LITTLE LOST CATERPILLAR). You can see Watson in action in a threeminute video available from Hallmark at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=65QVYefR2ul>.
 178. THE HOUSE OF SILK is the title of the new pastiche by Anthony Horowitz (Jan 11 #5), due from Orion Books (in the UK) and from Mulholland Books (in the US) in November; Horowitz has a three-minute teaser video at <www.amazon.co.uk>.
 179. WILLIAM GILLETTE, AMERICA'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Henry Zecher (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2011; 733 pp., \$23.95), is a splendid biography of the actor/playwright who did so much to make Sherlock Holmes so popular. There was much more to Gillette's life and career than Sherlock Holmes, and the author has told the story well, with careful research and readable style; recommended. The author's web-site is at <www.henryzecher.com>.
 180. BuzzerBeater is an "on-line basketball simulation game" discovered by Karen Murdock, who reports that one of them teams is the Baker Street Irregulars, managed by Sherlock Holmes <www.buzzerbeater.com/team/28544/overview.aspx>.
 181. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHAKESPEARE LETTER, by Barry Grant (Sutton: Severn House, 2011; 185 pp., \$27.95), is a sequel to THE STRANGE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Mar 10 #4); Sherlock Holmes, revived after having been frozen in a Swiss glacier for 90 years, is again detecting in London, assisted by James Wilson, a correspondent invalidated home after an assignment in Afghanistan, and this time they're attempting to recover a letter that may or may not have been written by Shakespeare, and that involves them in an intricate international conspiracy.

 182. Apr 11 #4: The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Tim Johnson's report on the Sherlockian and Doylean aspects of the new UMedia Archive, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" discussion of the cartoonist TAD (Thomas Aloysius Dorgan), Dick Sveum's "50 Years Ago" review of Peter A. Ruber and William Swift Dalliba's THE DETECTIVE SHORT STORY (A BIBLIOGRAPHY), and news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
 183. Samantha Wolov has reported that Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES will be found at Dan Wilbur's amusing web-site at <www.betterbooktitles.com>; according to Wilbur, his blog provides assistance to "people who do not have thousands of hours to read book reviews of blurbs or first sentences. I will cut through all the cryptic crap, and give you the meat of the story in one condensed image. Now you can read the greatest literary works of all time in mere seconds!"
 184. "This film is frequently hampered by the fact that it's horrible," according to James Lileks' review of Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933); Lloyd Rose discovered Lileks' blog at <www.lileks.com/institute/100mysteries>, where he comments on eight Sherlock Holmes films. Lileks also provides a link to Brian Taves' much longer and more knowledgeable user review of "A Study in Scarlet" at the Internet Movie Data Base.
 185. "Sherlock Holmes and the Volcano Horror" (an imaginative two-act play dramatized by Hal Glatzer from "The Devil's Foot") was first performed in Honolulu in 1978; a revised version, performed in Hilo last year, is now available for \$20.00 as a 95-minute DVD (\$20.00) that can be bought at his web-site <www.halglatzer.com>, where he also has information about the play and a video trailer.
 186. There are many interesting and useful aspects of Chris Redmond's web-site at <www.sherlockian.net>: click on "The original Sherlock Holmes stories" at the top of the list at the left to explore what people have had to say about the tales, such as "Redmond's Delicate Question" for each story. And his links can be weird and wonderful: if you explore "The Hound of the Baskervilles" you'll find a link to Laura Lyons as Playmate of the Month.
 187. Gary Thaden discovered a truly unusual edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, commissioned by Penguin Books in Malaysia to publicize the "unputdownable" nature of classic literature; an image of the new edition can be seen at <www.theinspirationroom.co/daily/2009/penguin-books-unputdownable>.
 188. Karen Murdock discovered Fancy That of London, a firm that sells all sorts of Sherlockiana, including a colorful Sherlock Holmes Tea Towel (£1.03); go to <www.fancythatoflondon.co.uk> and then click on "Sherlock Holmes Gifts" in the list at the left. And there are William and Kate Wedding Gifts that include a Royal Wedding Condom (for novelty purposes only). But apparently no Sherlockian William and Kate Wedding Gifts.

 189. Apr 11 #5: The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will celebrate its diamond jubilee with a long weekend of events that's scheduled for May 19-22; you can read all about it at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>. One of the events is "The Sound of the Baskervilles" (Laurence Owen's "Cinema for the Ears" presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles") at the Trafalgar Tavern in Greenwich, and the web-site has a link to a three-minute video trailer for what Owen calls a "radio film".
 190. One of the more attractive souvenirs of the Society's jubilee is The Agra Treasure Brooch: just go to the web-site, click on [shop] and then on the brooch to see it in full color. The brooches are hand-crafted by Kim Woodyer-Byers. The web-site also has a link to The Newsletter, where you can read all 310 issues of The District Messenger, which Roger Johnson launched on Dec. 1, 1982; it's the excellent British equivalent of Scuttlebutt from the Spemaceti Press (which is a bit older, and written in American rather than British).
 191. "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction" is a proposed exhibition for science museums whose plan will be unveiled at the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums in Houston, May 22-25. Created by principle designer Geoffrey M. Curley and the Exhibits Development Group of St. Paul, Minn., and licensed by the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Estate Ltd., the family's new business entity now that the Estate of Dame Jean Conan Doyle has been closed, the interactive exhibition will focus on Conan Doyle and Holmes, and the forensic science of both the Sherlockian and modern eras, and is expected to go on tour beginning in 2013.

192. One of the more colorful detectives in pre-Sherlockian England was Francis "Tanky" Smith, who was one of the first detective appointed to the city of Leicester's police force in 1836; he was a master of disguise, and after he retired in 1864 he set himself up as a private detective. He died in 1888, and of course there have been suggestions that his exploits were known to Conan Doyle, who in part modeled Holmes after Smith. He's commemorated in Leicester with a blue plaque and sixteen carved heads showing him in various disguises; go to <www.leicester.gov.uk> and search for [francis smith] to see the plaque and the disguises.
193. Further to the report (Oct 10 #7) on Steven Moffat's hinting about the next Benedict Cumberbatch "Sherlock" series ("The critical words, I'd say, would be--Adler, Hound, Reichenbach"), Mark Gatiss has announced at a media event in London that he will update "The Hound of the Baskervilles", Moffat will do "A Scandal in Bohemia", and Steve Thompson (who wrote "The Blind Banker" in the first series) will take care of "The Final Problem".
194. And Moffat, interviewed by Garth Johnston for www.gothamist.com on Apr. 21 (search for [moffat]), said that "There are genre similarities in 'Doctor Who' and 'Sherlock Holmes', no question about it. The Doctor is Sherlock in space, and Sherlock Holmes is the Doctor on Baker Street. But then you look at it a bit more closely, and Sherlock Holmes is cruel, lonely, loveless, and the Doctor is lovely and flopsy and embraces all the things that Sherlock runs away from." And that "Sherlock Holmes should never be a nice guy. And we're also doing a young Sherlock Holmes. This is before, twenty years before he becomes Basil Rathbone."

195. Apr 11 #6: Ted Riccardi's BETWEEN THE THAMES AND THE TIBER (New York: Pegasus, 2011; 317 pp., \$25.00), subtitled "the further adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Britain and the Italian Peninsula", is the sequel to his THE ORIENTAL CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Sep 03 #3); Holmes and Watson are as comfortable in Italy as they are in Britain (although Holmes is much more fluent in Italian than Watson), and the echoes from the Canon include their involvement with Pope Leo XIII, and with Isadora Persano (who turns out to be female medium rather than a male journalist and duellist, without a trace of a remarkable worm).
196. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-3.htm>, with a report (with photographs) on the December meeting of The Torists International, offers of books and other merchandise, and links to interesting web-sites.
197. Bill Scott's new play "The Death of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed on tour in western England and southern Wales by the Miracle Theatre, opening in Porthtowan on June 1 and closing in Falmouth on Aug. 29. More information is available at the company web-site at <www.miracletheatre.co.uk>.
198. Cocktails are making a comeback, and Mike Kean notes a recipe for a "Hound of the Baskervilles" created by Gary Regan (author of THE JOY OF MIXOLOGY and other books) and reported in the San Francisco Chronicle (Feb. 27). Mike reports the result as interesting, though perhaps lethal if taken in quantity.
199. Theatre Aquarius will perform Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8. 190 King William Street, Hamilton, ON L8R 1A8, Canada (905-522-7529) <www.theatreaquarius.org>.
200. Catherine Cooke is helping sell some of Anna Smyth's Sherlockiana (and at reasonable prices); you request an e-mail sales list from Catherine <c.cooke@dsl.pipex.com>.
201. The British Academy of Film & Television Arts has announced the nominees for its television BAFTAs; they include nominatons for "Sherlock" (drama series) Benedict Cumberbatch (leading actor), and Martin Freeman (supporting actor); the awards will be announced on May 22.
202. "Sherlock" also has been nominated for the YouTube Audience Award, the only BAFTA voted on by the public. The British public, that is; Brits can vote at <www.youtube.com/baftaonline> until May 20.
203. And yes, there was something Sherlockian about the Royal Wedding: the guest list at Westminster Abbey included Guy Ritchie, the director of the films "Sherlock Holmes" and "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows".

204. May 11 #1: I recently had an opportunity to watch an episode of "The \$64,000 Question" (1956) on which Air Force Captain Thomas O'Rourke and his wife Bobbye each won \$32,000 on concealment of identity in the Sherlock Holmes stories: they were each given seven names and asked to give the name of the story and another name by which the character was known. Test your own knowledge: Waldron ; Signora Victor Dorando; Henry Peters; Jack McMurdo; James Armitage; Vandeleur the schoolmaster; James Winter; Arthur Harry Pinner; Sutton; Mrs. Norlett; Don Juan Murillo; Hosmer Angel; Sergius, the nihilist; Mr. Cornelius. Note: they had only 30 seconds to think about their answers.
205. When and where did Sherlock Holmes wear an Inverness cape? There's no mention of an Inverness in the Canon, but many actors have worn one when playing Holmes; nowadays it seems to be worn mainly by members of pipe bands as a raincape, in nylon, polyester, or cotton, rather than tweed. Karen Murdock has found a source for the modern version at <www.misterantony.com>.
206. An unusual print of a blueprint inscribed "Bruce Partington Submarine, Issued by The Royal Navy Research Department" is scheduled for auction by Adam Partridge in England on June 23, estimated at £30-£50; the catalog description states that the print may have been used as a prop during filming of a Sherlock Holmes television program. Go to <www.adampartridge.co.uk/lots/> and search for [bruce].
207. "How Sherlock Kept Me Out of the Gulag" is the title of an article by Bohdan Kachmar posted at the web-site of the Ukrainian Bible Translation Project on May 30, 2009; go to <www.ukrainianbible.org> and search for [sherlock]. Kachmar's recollection of a Sherlock Holmes story did just that.
208. The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's discussion ("A Letter from Bosie") of the correspondence between Lord Alfred Douglas and Sir Arthur (whose wife Jean noted that his response was "a splendid answer from my darling to that rat"), plus other news from and about the collection. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>. And there's still time to register for "A Study in Scandal" in Toronto on Oct. 13-16 <www.acdfriends.org>.
209. More cocktails: Al and Julie Rosenblatt stopped by the Hotel Pierre in New York and visited the Two-E Bar/Lounge, which had a "Movie Cocktail Festival" that included the "Sherlock Holmes" (Laphroig Scotch, chilled Lapsang Souchong tea, honey simple syrup, and fresh lemon juice).
210. Mystery Scene magazine has reached its 118th issue (winter 2011), which has Cheryl Solimini's "Steve Hockensmith: Holmes on the Range" and Stephen J. Gertz's (non-Sherlockian) "Bawdy Bibliophiles" and much more. Their web-site <www.mysteryscenemag.com> also has many interesting articles, including "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (Jon L. Breen's review of the series of reprints from Titan Books), "Two Authors for Teenage Girls" (Oline H. Cogdill's discussion of Laurie R. King and Alan Bradley), and a samples from the spring issue.

211. May 11 #2: Bill Blackbeard died on Mar. 10. He spent a lifetime collecting newspaper comic strips, rescuing old newspapers from people's basements and attics, and from the Library of Congress, and other libraries, and wrote and edited many books about the classic comic-strip artists and their work. Bill presided over what he called the San Francisco Academy of Comic Art in his home, and by the 1990s he estimated that he had clipped and organized more than 2.5 million Sunday and daily comic strips. In 1998 most of his collection was transferred (in six semi-trailer trucks) to Ohio State

- University's Cartoon Library & Museum. His cornerstone contribution to our literature was his book *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA* (1981), which contained his essay on "The Image of Sherlock Holmes in Popular Art and Literature" and a wide variety of comic strips and cartoons, story illustrations, advertising, and reviews extracted from his collection.
212. And why was Guy Ritchie invited to the Royal Wedding? There have been reports that Will and Harry had been invited to the set while work on "Sherlock Holmes" was underway, and they attended the premiere in London on Dec. 14, 2009, arriving at the theater with Kate Middleton, as shown in a photograph that was published in the Daily Mail.
213. "You don't happen to have a Raphael...without knowing it?" Holmes asked (in "The Three Gables"). Having a Vernet would be almost as nice: Joan Moore spotted a report in the Wall Street Journal (Apr 29) that Claude-Joseph Vernet's painting "A Grand View of the Sea-Shore Enriched with Buildings, Shipping and Figures" went to auction at Sotheby's in New York on Jan. 27, estimated at \$1.5 million-\$2 million, and it sold for more than \$7 million; the article reported that 20 bidders duelled for the painting, which went to a private American buyer. Claude-Joseph Vernet was Holmes' great-great-grandfather. If you would settle for Holmes' grand-uncle Emile-Jean-Horace Vernet, his "Portrait of Colonel Auguste-Frederic-Bon-Amour, marquis de Talhouet" sold for only \$50,000.
214. Further to the item on the poetic accompaniment to Conan Doyle's autograph at auction at William J. Jenack on Apr. 17 (Apr 11 #2), bidding didn't make the reserve, and the lot didn't sell.
215. Henry Becton has been made an Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE), receiving the honor from Prince Charles at the British Embassy in Washington on May 5. Becton joined WGBH (Boston) as a producer in 1970 and served as its president from 1984 to 2007, presiding over the co-production of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series and many other "Mystery!" and "Masterpiece Theatre" favorites.
216. And "Masterpiece" executive producer Rebecca Eaton has been named to Time magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world; she received an honorary OBE on Dec. 10, 2003, for "her services to Anglo-American film and television."
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217. May 11 #3: Ken Lanza spotted a reference to "the Sherlock Holmes of America," who was Ellis Parker, the first chief detective in Burlington County, N.J. Parker had an illustrious career, until he decided he knew who had kidnapped the Lindbergh baby, and was in turn tried and convicted of kidnapping his alternative suspect. And there's a book: *MASTER DETECTIVE: THE LIFE AND CRIMES OF ELLIS PARKER--AMERICA'S REAL-LIFE SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Jim Reisinger (2006). Parker died in prison in 1940, and his grandson Andrew Sahol now is seeking a posthumous presidential pardon for his grandfather.
218. Jeremy Paul died on May 3. He was a skillful dramatist and playwright who wrote the "Conan Doyle" episode for the BBC's "The Edwardians" television series (1972), dramatized many of the tales for Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series (his version of "The Musgrave Ritual" won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America), and wrote the script for the play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" for Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke (1988).
219. The Postal Service has honored Helen Hayes as "The First Lady of the American Theater" on a new postage stamp. While she is not known to have acted in anything Sherlockian or Doylean, she did appear with William Gillette in the Broadway production of J. M. Barrie's play "Dear Brutus" in 1918, when she was only 18 years old, winning praise in reviews of the play. She greatly admired Gillette; you can read what she said about him in her memoirs in Henry Zecher's *WILLIAM GILLETTE: AMERICA'S SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Apr 11 #3).
220. The nominees for this year's Anthony Awards have been announced, and they include Graham Moore's *THE SHERLOCKIAN* (best first novel) and Steve Doyle's *SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES* (best critical/non-fiction). The voters will be those who attend Bouchercon 2011 in Saint Louis, and the winners will be announced on Sept. 18.
221. The Undershaw Preservation Trust is continuing its campaign to rescue Conan Doyle's home from a developer who plans to convert the house into flats (Dec 10 #2). The BBC reported that the Trust handed out 500 deerstalkers in Hindhead and asked locals to wear something inspired by Sherlock Holmes on May 14 to show their support for keeping the house as a single building or turning it into a museum. The Waverley Borough Council has approved the developer's plans, and the Council's head of planning, Matthew Evans said, "If Undershaw was to be bought by campaigners or another purchaser with a view to an alternative use for the building and promoting it to tourists, we would be happy to discuss the proposals with them," and added that "it would be a substantial burden on the taxpayer for Waverley Borough Council to make a compulsory purchase of the property, with no assurance that any scheme would be financially viable."
222. Scott Monty's "Baker Street Blog" continues to expand its reach, which now includes Steve Doyle's "From the Dummy's Chair". A recent installment is "Sherlockian Myth-Busters: Thor Bridge", a five-minute video in which Steve and fellow Sherlockians conduct a test to see whether the disappearing-gun trick in "Thor Bridge" actually works. Go to <www.bakerstreetblog.com> to see the solution.
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223. May 11 #4: Nicholas Selby died in on Sept. 14, 2010. He had a long career as a supporting actor on stage, screen, radio, and television; he appeared in the cast of the Hobbs/Shelley radio version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on the BBC in 1958, and played James Larrabee in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in London, Washington, and New York in 1974.
224. Image Comics has launched a new MORIARTY comic-book mini-series, written by Daniel Corey and drawn by Anthony Diecidue. Charles Prepolec has a colorful report on the new comic (and as usual on other interesting things) at <www.sherlocknews.com>.
225. "So I wrote another of my first books and sent it off to the publishers," Conan Doyle wrote in "My First Book" (in *The Idler*, Jan. 1893). The book was *THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH*, and the manuscript was lost in the post. "But I must in all honesty confess that my shock at its disappearance would be as nothing to my horror if it were suddenly to appear again--in print," he added. And, more than a hundred years later, it was a surprise to find the manuscript of the story in the Conan Doyle papers at auction at Christie's in London in 2004. It wasn't the original manuscript, it turns out, but rather a second version that he rewrote from memory, as he wrote to his mother in Feb. 1884 in a letter published in *ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: HIS LIFE AND LETTERS* (2007).
226. That manuscript was purchased by the British Library, which will publish it later this year, with an introduction by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Rachel Foss (144 pp., £9.95) <publishing.bl.uk> (there also will be an audiobook, and both versions will be distributed in the U.S. by the University of Chicago Press). "Through John Smith," the British Library notes, "Conan Doyle sets down his thoughts and opinions on a range of subjects--including literature, science, religion, war, and education--with no detectable insecurity or diffidence."
227. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS HORROR*, by David Ruffle (Peterborough: FastPrint Publishing, 2009; 168 pp., £8.99); Holmes and Watson are in Lyme Regis pitted against the vampire Count Olana in 1896 (Bram Stoker's *DRACULA* was published in 1897).
228. The Library of Congress and Sony have launched a new web-site that allows listeners to stream an archive of more than 10,000 pre-1925 recordings of music, speeches, poetry, and comedy. It's called the National Jukebox, and it's at <www.loc.gov/jukebox>, and it's well worth a visit. And a search for [sherlock] quickly turned up "Mrs. Holmes taught Sherlock all he knew" on a recording made by the Victor Military Band on Apr. 26, 1917. It's a

- sprightly tune, and a mystery: the title of the record is "When It's Circus Day Back Home--Medley One-Step" and the Sherlockian title is listed only as one of the four tunes in the medley; one would think it's a song, but there are no results from a Google search other than the record.
229. Marvin Cheiten's new play "The Golden Spy & The World at War" opened at the Off-Broadstreet Theatre on May 13 and is running through June 3. The theater is at 5 South Greenwood Avenue, Hopewell, NJ 08525 (609-466-2766), and the web-site's at <www.off-broadstreet.com>.
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230. May 11 #5: The manuscript of "The Story of Pedegue's Dropper" went to auction at Bloomsbury Auctions in London on May 25, estimated at £4,000-£6,000. The title of the manuscript's not a misprint: the story was published as "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper" in The Strand Magazine (Oct. 1928), and Randall Stock has much more information about the manuscript at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/spedegues-dropper-bloomsbury.htm>. The hammer price was £15,000 (before buyer's premium and taxes).
231. The BBC has announced that filming has started on the second season of its "Sherlock" mini-series (starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman), and Steven Moffat has revealed that the three new programs will be "A Scandal in Belgravia", "The Hounds of Baskerville", and "The Reichenbach Fall".
232. And the British Academy of Film & Television announced its BAFTA awards on May 22: "Sherlock" won for best drama series, Martin Freeman for best supporting actor, and "A Study in Pink" for best fiction editing.
233. Edward Hardwicke died on May 16. He began his acting career in a film at the age of 10, and performed as well on stage, radio, and television. His first Canonical role was Davenport in the Peter Cushing/Nigel Stock version of "The Greek Interpreter" (1968), and he was a splendid Watson in the Granada series (1986-1994) and in Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (1988). He also read many of the tales for CSA Telltapes and other companies, and he played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the film "Photographing Fairies" (1997); there's an interesting ten-minute interview with Hardwicke at Scott Monty's Baker Street Blog <www.bakerstreetblog.com>.
234. "Sheer-Luck Holmes: Clueless Again" is a new parody that opened at the Desert Star Playhouse on Apr. 28, and it will run through June 11. 4861 South State Street, Murray, UT 84107 (801-266-2600) <www.desertstar.biz>. There is a one-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSAff273-8k>.
235. There was nothing particularly Sherlockian at Malice Domestic in Bethesda at the end of last month, except for Carole Nelson Douglas being the guest of honor, and Steve Doyle and Dan Stashower participating on non-Sherlockian panels, but it was interesting to see a trend in book titles such as A HARD DAY'S FRIGHT, TOMB WITH A VIEW, NIGHT OF THE LOVING DEAD, TOMBS OF ENDEARMENT, and DEAD MAN TALKING, all part of Casey Daniels' "Pepper Martin" series; Pepper is an heiress turned cemetery tour guide who assists ghosts who need a private investigator. Many other authors like amusing puns in their book titles, including Donna Andrews; her latest is STORK RAVING MAD, and you can find more at <www.donnandrews.com>. The next Malice Domestic will be held Apr. 27-29, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Md.; Jan Burke will be guest of honor, Simon Brett will receive a lifetime achievement award, and there's more information at <www.malicedomestic.org>.
236. OSCAR WILDE AND THE VAMPIRE MURDERS (New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, 2011; 366 pp., \$24.00) is the fourth title in Gyles Brandreth's excellent series featuring Oscar Wilde as the detective and Arthur Conan Doyle as his friend and sometimes student; this time they're involved with royalty and murder, and they story's full of twists and turns. The British edition is titled OSCAR WILDE AND THE NEXT OF VIPERS (from John Murray), and Brandreth has an interesting web-site at <www.oscarwildemurdermysteries.com>.
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237. May 11 #6: Cinema St. Louis held a ten-day "Vincentennial" this month, in honor of Vincent Price (who was born there in 1911), with interviews, screenings, discussions, and special events; there's a web-site at <www.vincentennial.com>. The films shown include "Champagne for Caesar" (1950), which has a Sherlockian connection: for Disney's "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986), their artists modeled Ratigan after Price's performance in the earlier film, and Price provided the voice for Ratigan. Price also hosted the PBS-TV "Mystery!" series from 1981 to 1989, offering interesting comments on the Granada series; he won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1988 for his "contributions to the world of mystery."
238. The German Sherlock Holmes Society has reported that the first issue of The Baker Street Chronicle will appear in June; there will be 32 pages, and the Chronicle will be a quarterly, all in German. And (of course) there is a web-site at <www.baker-street-chronicle.de>.
239. John and Connie Cullen have come up with a way to combine real books with e-readers: their inBOOK is a hardback case that looks like a book and protects your Kindle or Nook. One of the inBOOKS comes with a Sherlock Holmes cover, 16 pages with "The Musgrave Ritual", and a custom-made case for your e-reader (\$49.95). There's more information at <www.goinbook.com>.
240. Anthony D. P. Mann's film "Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow Watchers" (Apr 11 #1) has been issued on DVD; it's a 62-minute Canadian production, filmed in Kingston, Ont. (which has some appropriately Victorian locations), written by Mann, who also performs as Holmes. The DVD costs CA\$15.00 plus shipping (613-767-2776) <www.sherlockholmesadventures.ca>, and Mann has his own web-site at <www.anthonypmann.com>.
241. Al Gregory notes that Thucydides is mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes stories (in "The Three Students"), and now Sherlock Holmes is mentioned in Thucydides. Well, an appendix in Robert B. Strassler's THE LANDMARK THUCYDIDES (2001): "Greek religion in Thucydides is much like the dog in the famous Sherlock Holmes tale who provided a clue because he did *not* bark in the night: Thucydides' comparative silence on Greek religious practices and institutions dramatically illustrates the rationalizing and secular nature of his work."
242. More auction news: Australian Book Auctions' sale on May 30 included a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual that's a new addition to Randall Stock's census. The copy lacks the covers, and has been rebound, and was estimated at AU\$40,000-AU\$80,000, There's much more information about this new copy of Beeton's at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/australia-2011-beetons.htm>.
243. Rochester Row, The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse, and An Irish Secret Society at Buffalo will hold their second annual summer conference on Aug. 6 in Rochester, highlighted by a tour of the George Eastman International House of Photography (which preserved John Barrymore's 1922 film "Sherlock Holmes"). More information's available from Lewis Neisner (501 Rivers Run, Rochester, NY 14623 (585-360-4715) <lewisneisner@yahoo.com>.
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244. Jun 11 #1: Roger Johnson reports that Memorial Auctioneers (104 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE, England) <www.ms.gb.co.uk> will offer the Lordship of the Manor of Manaton in Devon at auction in London in July. Roger Smith, chairman of the Manorial Society of Great Britain, believes that Manaton was the inspiration for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and notes that Conan Doyle was a regular visitor in the neighborhood, and that Heatree House (now an "adventure centre") "receives thousands of visitors a year who are looking for the literary roots of Sherlock Holmes."
245. Faithful readers of this newsletter may recall that a few years ago Manorial Auctioneers offered for sale the barony of Pencelli Castle, which was said to have inspired THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Jun 03 #6), and that the Memorial Society had been described as "one of the most ruthless, vindictive, arrogant, and dangerous of all business enterprises related to titles in the world."

246. Catherine's Cooke's article on "Sherlock Holmes and the Festival of Britain" (celebrating the 60th anniversary of that landmark exhibition) is one of the featured articles in the spring issue of Canadian Holmes, which is published by The Bootmakers of Toronto for its members; it's a lively journal (\$35.00 a year); TDC Postal Station Box 1157, 77 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5K 1P2, Canada <www.sherlockian.net/bootmakers>.
247. The Easton Press is publishing a deluxe edition of LONDON: A PILGRIMAGE, by Gustave Dore and Blanchard Jerrold, first published by Grant & Co. in London in 1872. Dore provided 180 engravings for Jerrold's portrait of London that was published only a few years before Conan Doyle's first visit to the city at the end of 1874. It's a leather-bound limited edition that costs \$496.00 postpaid; 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857 (800-367-4534).
248. Registration is now open for "Gillette to Brett III", the conference scheduled by the Wessex Press in Bloomington on Nov. 11-13. They'll celebrate the 35th anniversary of "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (with Nicholas Meyer on hand), and there will be many other interesting speakers. You can register at the web-site <www.wessexpress.com>, or request information by mail (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46077).
249. Karen Murdock has found a web-site for the Sherlock Holmes Outpost in Fort Texas. The Outpost claims that Holmes visited Fort Davis during the Great Hiatus <www.teamyellow.net/SherlockHolmesOutpost/index.html>. Fort Davis is described as "only 220 miles east of El Paso or 175 miles southwest of Midland, and the Outpost offers food in Mrs. Hudson's Dining Room and drink in Dr. Watson's Club.
250. The electronic journal Ripperologist continues Tim Mosley's multi-part article "House That Jack Built" (Sep 10 #6) with an appendix in issue #120 on "A Look Inside the Chamber Pot" in which Mosley suggests that "One may have difficulty visualizing the suave detective using a chamber pot, but that is likely how it would have been even in the 1880s." The issue also includes a tribute to the late Edward Hardwicke; contact the editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information about subscriptions.

251. Jun 11 #2: The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Old Court Radio Theatre Company have issued a CD with recordings of "The Long Man" (a story written by Rafe McGregor and dramatized by M. J. Elliott) and "The Grace Chalice" (written and adapted by Roger Johnson); Jim Crozier and Dave Hawkes return as Holmes and Watson, and the productions and acting are excellent. The programs can be heard or downloaded free at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> and the CD is available from the Society (Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, England) for £5.00 postpaid to the UK, £6.00 or £9.00 to Europe, and £9.00/\$12.00 elsewhere; sterling checks payable to Roger Johnson and dollar checks to Jean Upton.
252. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-5.htm>, with tributes to the late Edward Hardwicke and Jeremy Paul, and offers of books, other merchandise, and links to interesting web-sites.
253. Sherlock Holmes never appeared in Oz, at least in the official series written by L. Frank Baum and annointed successors, but Toto was drawn with the Sherlockian icons by Frank Kramer in Jack Snow's THE MAGICAL MIMICS OF OZ (1946). Atticus Gannaway's "Frank Kramer: The Lost Illustrator of Oz" in the spring issue of The Baum Bugle. He illustrated only two Oz books, but he has a long list of credits for work in magazines and books, including illustrations for "A Scandal in Bohemia" and other non-Sherlockian stories in Rosamund Morris' anthology GREAT DETECTIVE STORIES (1965) and dust-jacket art for Mary Hoehling's THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1965). The Baum Bugle is published three times a year by The International Wizard of Oz Club (Box 2657, Alameda, CA 94501) (www.ozclub.org>; \$25.00 a year.
254. The print of a blueprint inscribed "Bruce Partington Submarine, Issued by The Royal Navy Research Department" (May 11 #1) was sold at auction on May 12 for £180, well above the estimate of £30-£50. You see a different plan in Granada's version of "The Bruce-Partington Plans".
255. The East Haddam Stage Company's production of William Gillette's "All the Comforts of Home" opened at Gillette Castle on June 18, and it runs through Aug. 6. The play is a 30-minute condensation of a Victorian drawing room comedy that Gillette debuted in 1890, and it will be performed outdoors on the Castle grounds. and indoors at the East Haddam Historical Society. Box 176, East Haddam, CT 06423 (960-873-3521) <www.ehsco.org>.
256. The company's also planning to perform a new play about the first time that Gillette adapted Conan Doyle's tales for the stage; "Sherlock Holmes: From Page to Stage" is a scheduled at the East Haddam Historical Society, July 29 to Aug. 7.
257. Paul Spiring has reported that there is a three-bedroom apartment for sale in Park House in Ipplepen in Devon. Park House was the residence of Bartram Fletcher Robinson (Conan Doyle wrote to his mother from Princetown in 1901 that he intended to visit Park House), and there is much more information at <www.tinyurl.com/3ulh43x>. The asking price is £189,950.

258. Jun 11 #3: The Sherlock Holmes Gazette was launched in 1991, became Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine in 1997, and in 2003 simply Sherlock, reaching a total of 68 issues before ending its run in 2006. It offered excellent content, Sherlockian and otherwise, and all 68 issues are now available as a digitized CD-ROM archive for £49.95. The disk has useful navigation features, and it's easily searchable; you can buy it at the magazine's colorful web-site <www.sherlockmagazine.co.uk> or from the publisher: Atlas Publishing Ltd., Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH25 6QJ, England.
259. Christer Holmqvist (a member of the Baskerville Hall Club in Sweden) notes that Out of Print Clothing offers a HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES T-shirt for \$28.00; the company "celebrates the world's great stories through fashion," selling T-shirts decorated with vintage book covers; for every shirt sold, one book is sent to a child in Africa through their charity partner Books for Africa. Their web-site's at <www.outofprintclothing.com>.
260. HOUND, John Patrick Bray's dramatization of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, has been performed in Louisiana (Sep 07 #2) and New York (May 09 #3), and the script is now available from Next Stage Press (9810 Westcliff Parkway #927, Westminster, CO 80021) <www.shop.nextstagepress.net>; \$8.00 printed or digital (no shipping charge for digital copies).
261. Laurie R. King launched her Mary Russell series in 1994 with THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE, which opened with Russell's account of her first meeting with Holmes. BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS, an e-novella available on July 6, is an imaginative look at that meeting, from Holmes' point of view, which is quite different from Russell's. The Kindle and Nook editions cost 99¢, and there will be others; check for details at <www.laurierking.com>. And Laurie says there later will be an ink-on-paper print version, and on June 6 she posted an excerpt on her blog <www.laurierking.com/blogs>, along with publicity for the next Mary Russell novel (PIRATE KING), which will be published Sept. 6. Gilbert & Sullivan fans may wish to try singing her "The Major-Criminal's Song" (she has kindly supplied some karaoke music to help you out).
262. Sept. 19 is "Talk Like a Pirate Day" (an event that began in 1995, and is now international); they don't seem to be aware of Conan Doyle's "Captain Sharkey", but there's an interesting web-site at <www.talklikeapirate.com>.
263. Waterlogg Productions has announced their reissue of Joe Bevilacqua's parody radio series "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (Dec 07 #6) as "The Best of the Comedy-O-Rama Radio Hour, Season One" as a download (\$9.95) at <www.amazon.com>. There's more information about Bevilacqua's many other productions at <www.comedyorama.com> and <www.joebev.com>.

264. Tryon, N.C., has in the past honored local resident William Gillette with Sherlock Holmes Festivals, and this year there will be a gathering on July 23, with a breakfast featuring Henry Zecher, author of the recent WILLIAM GILLETTE: AMERICA'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (Apr 11 #3), and afterwards an opportunity to tour the Polk County Historical Museum, which has a large collection of Gillette material; you can make reservations for the breakfast with Robert Reynolds (828-859-9388) <boblo1@windstream.net>.
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265. Jun 11 #4: The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes) always has interesting content: the spring issue offers Benoit Guilielmo's "Prolegomena to a Basic Invisible Holmesian Library" (on the authorities cited by Ronald Knox in his classic essay), and the summer issue has Susan Rice's "By Way of Introduction" (about how a solitary Sherlockian found and joined the wider world of Sherlockians). It's published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
266. Further to the item about plans to publish Conan Doyle's THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH (May 11 #5), Randall Stock has prepared an excellent report on the manuscript and its history, and on the book, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/narrative-john-smith-ms.htm>.
267. From time to time one makes accidental discoveries at <www.wikipedia.org>, such as the "List of authors of new Sherlock Holmes", which in turn has a link to "Non-canonical Sherlock Holmes works", where you'll find a link to "Popular culture references to Sherlock Holmes" (all less than complete, so you can help Wikipedia with additions, and for that matter corrections).
268. Stephen Gaspar's THE CANADIAN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was published by George Vanderburg in 2004; it's a 224-page collection of nine pastiches set during Holmes and Watson's visit to Canada in 1897, and the tales have quite a bit of Canadian history and geography as well as mysteries. Autographed copies are available from the author (9805 Holly Crescent, Windsor, ON N8R 1Y6, Canada) CA\$23.50 postpaid to Canada, US\$27.50 to the US). He has some promotional videos at <www.youtube.com/user/stephengaspar58> and an interesting blog at <stephengaspar.blogspot.com>, where you can read his continuing Sherlockian serial pastiche "Cold Hearted Murder".
269. Paul Spiring has reported (and will soon publish) "The Grave Accusation", an amusing pastiche that has Holmes and Watson investigating Rodger Garrick Steele's story that Bertram Fletcher Robinson was poisoned by his wife And Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Dicky Neely's pastiche was published in the Coastal Bend Sun, and that at Neely's blog in 2007.
270. The Ocular Helmsman <www.jadedcompass.com/ocular_helmsman> is Virginia Aldrich's "Vade Mecum Upon the Personal Effects & Environs of Mssrs. Sherlock Holmes & John H. Watson of 221B Baker Street for the Victorian Layman", and it's nicely done.
271. Richard R. Nagy's Datamancer web-site at <www.datamancer.net> is well worth exploring: his imaginative steampunk computer keyboard was offered at eBay last year, described as "a keyboard to make Sherlock Holmes proud" (Jul 10 #2), and Ken Lanza has reported that Nagy is now accepting pre-orders (at \$5,500) for his spectacular Victorian/Steampunk Laptop.
272. Paul Spiring has reported another example of how useful the Internet can be for researchers: the National Library of New Zealand has now digitized more than one million pages of the country's newspapers covering the years 1839 to 1945 (and they're still adding to the data base). The Papers Past web-site's <www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>; a search for [conan doyle] turned up 8016 hits, and there were 6801 hits for [sherlock holmes].
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273. Jun 11 #5: Otto Penzler, proprietor of the Mysterious Press and the Mysterious Bookshop, has teamed with digital publisher Open Road Integrated Media <www.openroadmedia.com> to launch MysteriousPress.com to move Mysterious Press into electronic publishing, with both classic and original mystery and crime titles as ebooks. Otto also publishes The Mysterious Bookshop Newsletter monthly, always with a "Sherlock Holmes" section that offers new, used, and rare Sherlockiana; go to <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> and click on "Newsletter" at the left.
274. Andrew Lycett's biography of Conan Doyle has an Italian translation: CONAN DOYLE: L'UOMO CHE CREO SHERLOCK HOLMES (from Excelsior 1881, E26.50); it's available at <www.amazon.it> and elsewhere.
275. Heritage Auctions offered some interesting fossils in their Natural History auction on June 12 in Dallas, including "The Fighting Pair--Allosaurus vs. Stegosaurus", a pair of fossils discovered in 2007 in Wyoming and estimated at \$2,240,000-\$3,360,000; the description of the Allosaurus noted that "it bears the distinction of being one of the first dinosaurs to be depicted on the silver screen, the apex predator of the 1912 novel and 1925 cinema adaptation of Conan Doyle's THE LOST WORLD." And the lot sold for \$2,748,500 (including the buyer's premium) to an unidentified museum outside the U.S. There's a full description, and a four-minute video, at <www.ha.com>.
276. David Schulson Autographs (973-379-3800) <www.schulsonautographs.com> has advertised an interesting medical bill in Conan Doyle's hand for one "first night visit" 7/6 and "two subsequent visits" 7/0 for a total of 14/6, noted "received with thanks" on Aug. 2, 1887.
277. Esri Allbritten's CHIHUAHUA OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Minotaur Books, 2011; 274 pp., \$23.99) is an amusing homage to the Sherlock Holmes story, with a spectral dog (in Manitou Springs, Colo.), and a Baskerville family (some them involved in the Emma Crawford Memorial Coffin Race); the author's web-site is at <www.esriallbritten.wordpress.com/author/elvesamongus>, where she describes the crime as "kind of like Scooby Doo for grown-ups."
278. Les and Carol Moskowitz, vacationing in Europe, visited Bordeaux and discovered a Sherlock Holmes Pub <www.sherlockholmespub.fr> that offers British beer and ale, jacket potatoes, darts, pool, and a pleasant atmosphere. They also found a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Hellesylt in Norway; alas: it was closed, and doesn't have a web-site, but a photograph at Wikimedia Commons shows a rural Scandinavian exterior.
279. And Oscar Ross spotted a report in The Guardian (June 8) on "10 of the Best Barrio Bars in Barcelona", one of them being the Barcelona Pipa Club, described as being dedicated to pipe smoking and as having a Sherlock Holmes theme <www.bpipaclub.com/gourmet.htm>.
280. Greg Darak reports that Marvel Comics has revived Ruse, which was published by Crossgen from 2001 to 2004; there's a new mini-series, apparently with four issues. It's not directly Sherlockian, but there's lots of good Victorian flavor, and some nice artwork. Mark Waid is again the writer, and Mirco Pierfederici is the new illustrator; there's more information about the comic at <www.marvel.com/comic_books/series/13555/ruse_2010_1_present>.
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281. Jun 11 #6: More auction news: two of Basil Rathbone's costumes as Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" were sold by Profiles in History in Beverly Hills on June 18, as part of Debbie Reynolds' collection of movie memorabilia; his tan and black square-checked wool cape overcoat (estimated at \$20,000-\$30,000) sold for \$61,500 (including the buyer's premium), and his tweed wool herringbone double-breasted jacket (estimated at \$8,000-\$12,000) brought \$11,685. The star of the sale was Marilyn Monroe's "subway" dress from "The Seven Year Itch" (estimated at \$1,000,000-\$2,000,000); it sold for \$5,658,000.
282. Al Gregory spotted Adam Whyte's review at <www.obsessedwithfilm.com> of the new British film "Albatross" that was screened at the Edinburgh Film Festival this month. The film stars Jessica Brown Findlay as Emilia, whose surname is Conan Doyle and introduces herself as the great-great-granddaughter of Arthur Conan Doyle.

283. "Learn to fight like Sherlock Holmes!" The New York Historical Society is presenting "A Study in Scarlet: An Evening of Sherlockian Splendor" on July 23 as part of an Antagonistics weekend that's billed as bartitsu's New York City debut. Misspelled "baritsu" by Watson, bartitsu was the Victorian art of self-defense. There's more information at <www.nycsteampunk.com>.
284. Dr. William R. Hanson designed a colorful cachet for last year's "Holiday Evergreen"; the door and doorway are modeled after the set for the Ronald Howard television series (1954). The cost is \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.) and you're requested to make payment in currency or with U.S. postal money orders; his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.
285. MRS. HUDSON AND THE IRISH INVINCIBLES, by Barry S. Brown (Santa Fe: (Sunstone Press, 2011; 236 pp., \$22.95), is the second book in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series; as in the first book THE UNPLEASANTNESS AT PARKERTON MANOR (Jul 10 #5), Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case involving Irish revolutionaries and imaginative plotting. Omnimystery News offers an interesting interview view with Brown at <www.tinyurl.com/5t34m2t>.
286. Jason Lethcoe's NO PLACE LIKE HOLMES (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011; 207 pp., \$9.99) is the first in a new series of books about Griffin Sharpe, a young American who arrives in London expecting to spend the summer of 1903 with his uncle, who lives at 221 Baker Street. Only to discover that his uncle is Rupert Snodgrass, who is a would-be consulting detective who lives at 221A, much in the shadow of the more famous detective who lives at 221B. There's plenty of adventure involved in a battle with the Moriarty's (yes, there are two of them). And there's more to come. The author has a web-site at <www.jasonlethcoe.com>, with a link to his Griffin Sharpe blog.

Jul 11 #1:

287. This year still is the centenary of Ronald Knox's landmark paper on "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", and it was nice to find Robert Speaight long essay on "Ronald Knox the Writer" in RONALD KNOX (published by Sheed and Ward in 1965. In a discussion of Knox's "Satire and Fantasy" Speaight makes an interesting point: "The humorist is out to make a lot of people laugh; the satirist is out to make certain people squirm . . . Humour sought identity with the victim; it ran with the hare whereas the satirist hunted with the hounds."
288. Oliver Mundy posed an interesting challenge: what Canonical character first appeared outside the Canon, in a work by an author other than Conan Doyle? The character actually participates in a story (as opposed to merely being mentioned by name), and has something to say.
289. Frank Billerbeck died on June 29. He served in France during WWII, and began his show business career there in 1948 using the name Billy Beck. He returned to the U.S. in 1960 and went on to a long acting career on screen and in television. His first credited part in the Ronald Howard "Sherlock Holmes" television series, as Cookson in "The Mother Hubbard Case" (1954); he also played a hansom driver in "The Case of the Tyrant's Daughter" and Coco/station manager in "The Night Train Riddle" (1955).
290. Daniel Corey's MORIARTY comic-book mini-series (May 11 #4) has strong artwork and an interesting story; his media company is DangerKatt, and he has a web-site at <www.professorjamesmoriarty.com>.
291. It's a long-standing urban legend that the Mormon Church has banned A STUDY IN SCARLET because of its unflattering portrayal of the Mormons. Actually, he was welcomed to Salt Lake City in 1923, and lectured on spiritualism in the Mormon Tabernacle, and the book still is easily available at the public library in Salt Lake City. But things seem to be rather different in Albemarle County, Virginia, where a parent complained that she did not want her sixth grader, or any other student, to read "the terrible connotations made in the novel," according to a story at Newsplex.Com (June 28). She asked the county to remove the book from its approved reading list, and a committee created by the county school board recommended that the book be removed from the list.
292. "I did feel that there was some obvious bias or misrepresentation of Mormon history," school board chair Steve Koleszar said, adding that "I felt that I could easily see how sixth graders might not understand that it was fiction, that it was from a particular point of view." When the school board met on July 14 they had a long discussion on the issue, and decided to keep the book on the approved reading list.
293. Those who recall the days when the phrase "Banned in Boston" was so helpful in making Kathleen Winsor's FOREVER AMBER a best-seller are aware that the people who attempt to ban things just make them more attractive. One wise Sherlockian father carefully told his son that he wasn't old enough to appreciate the Sherlock Holmes stories, thus guaranteeing that he would begin reading them immediately.

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294. Jul 11 #2: Laurie R. King's e-novella BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS (Jun 11 #3) is now available, and her latest newsletter has information on how to buy it <www.laurierking.com/author/lrk-newsletter>, plus some fine Howard Pyle-ish artwork and a link to an amusing book trailer at YouTube. There's also a nice book trailer for the upcoming Mary Russell novel PIRATE KING at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2L7s7ZDJDQ>.
 295. Mark Twain is the latest author to be honored by the U.S. Postal Service in its on-going "Literary Arts" series of commemoratives. His parody "A Double-Barrelled Detective Story" is Sherlockian, and he was a good friend of Will-Gillette.
 296. Ken Lanza discovered the web-site of The Baker Street Irregular Astronomers <www.bakerstreetastro.org.uk>, which have a Sherlockian logo and occasional quotes from the Canon. Co-organizer Tom Kerss has explained that the name was chosen because they meet monthly in Regents Park and because the organizers work at London's only telescope showroom (the Widescreen Centre) just off Baker Street.
 297. What Canonical character first appeared outside the Canon, in a work by an author other than Conan Doyle? Billy the page, who appears for the first time in William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" (long before he plays a part in three of the tales).
 298. Peter Falk died on June 23. He began his acting career on the stage in the 1950s, appeared in many films, and became most famous for his performance as Lt. Columbo (many of his obituaries mentioned him as saying "I've always said that Columbo was an ass-backwards Sherlock Holmes"). He also played Reverend Theo Kerr in the television film "The Lost World" (2001) that featured Bob Hoskins as Challenger.
 299. "Crime-fighting Vultures? What Could Go Wrong?" was the headline on a story spotted by Tina Rhea in The Independent (July 1): the police commissioner in Hanover (Germany) decided to use turkey vultures to find missing corpses, but the vultures proved less than proficient at the task; you can read the story at <www.tinyurl.com/628vatb> with a photograph of Sherlock, one of the vultures who was too frightened to leave the bird park where he had been raised.
 300. The newly-reported copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual was offered at auction in Australia in May (estimated at AU\$40,000-AU\$80,000) didn't sell, and has been "returned to vendor." Randall Stock has more information about this Beeton's at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/australia-2011-beetons.htm>.
 301. Ken Lanza spotted a story in the Sunday Mirror (July 10) about the impact of British budget problems on the nation's police, who are targeted for 20-percent cuts over the next four years: further work on Holmes 2020 has been canceled. The new massive computer system, on which £3 million has already been spent, was intended to replace Holmes 2 (Dec 00 #4), which stores fingerprints, photographs, and even the recorded voices of suspects; the first HOLMES was a backronym for the "Home Office (Large) Major Enquiry System", which was created in 1985.

302. Jul 11 #3: This month's demise of the News of the World resulted in a story in the Guardian that offers a (remote) Canonical connection spotted by Oscar Ross. "The Sunday newspaper has thrived on a formula of crime, sex, and sensation since its first edition in 1843," Esther Addley wrote. Shortly into the 20th century, Frederick Greenwood, editor of the Pall Mall Gazette, is reputed to said that he had looked at the paper "and then I put it into the waste paper basket. And then I thought, 'If I leave it there the cook may read it'--so I burned it." The Pall Mall Gazette is mentioned in the Canon (in "The Blue Carbuncle").
303. Another trivia question, this one from J.P. Van Gordon: name the actor who has played by Moriarty and Lestrade?
304. shirt.woot! is an interesting web-site at (naturally) <www.shirt.woot.com>; they offer a daily \$10.00 special, and this month one was Sherlockian. It's still available (for \$15.00); go to the web-site and click on "reckoning" and then on the image to read all about "Ruff Justice" (aka "Olfactory, my dear Watson").
305. The "CBS Radio Mystery Theater" had a total of 1,399 episodes from 1974 to 1982; it was a delightful series created by Himan Brown. E. G. Marshall was the host for most of the series, succeeded by Tammy Grimes in the final year. And of course there were many Sherlockian and Doylean stories. <www.cbsrmt.org> is devoted to the series, and offers information about and downloads of the programs.
306. One of the more interesting programs was "The Silver Mirror" (1981), which is credited to James Agate Jr. as writer, but actually is based on the story by Conan Doyle with additional characters: Arthur Conan Doyle (played by Gordon Gould) and Louise Doyle (Marian Seldes).
307. Stan Buchholtz has sculpted an attractive plaster bust of Sherlock Holmes, and is offering a few copies for \$110.00 postpaid; he'll be glad to send a picture of the bust to anyone interested <sbuchholtz1@earthlink.com>.
308. Merrily Taylor noted Clare Toohey's post on CriminalElement.com about "The Plushest 'Sherlock' Ever" <www.tinyurl.com/6ffzhnj>; Malanie Fletcher has created plush dolls for Mycroft Holmes, Sherlock Holmes, and Dr. Watson (in the BBC's "Sherlock" mini-series. Click on [melanie fletcher] to see more photographs of her Sherlockian plushies, and one of the artist.
309. Les Moskowitz reports that Conan Doyle is included in Tim Foley's LITERARY GREATS PAPER DOLLS (New York: Dover Publications, 2011; 128 pp., \$9.99), as Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and one of the Cottingley fairies.
310. "The Sherlock Holmes Daily" is one of the many interesting features found at Scott Monty's Baker Street Blog <www.bakerstreetblog.com>; it's a summary of what's being said about Sherlock Holmes on Twitter in the style of a daily newspaper. Well, some things aren't strictly Sherlockian, including "Tweet Naked with Jessie Northey" <www.fingercandymedia.com/?s=naked>.
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311. Jul 11 #4: Lo Jui-ching was minister of Public Security and chief of the Army General Staff until he was purged in 1966, the first victim of Mao Tse-Tung's Cultural Revolution; the reason being his suggestion that public-security personnel should emulate "exceptional" men like Sherlock Holmes, who was called by Lo's superiors a "watch-dog of the British bourgeoisie." Things are quite different now: Al Gregory and Aziz bin Adam both reported a story in the China Daily (July 6) that described the country's top forensic expert Wu Guoqing as "China's Sherlock Holmes".
312. The actor who has played both Moriarty and Lestrade is Colin Jeavons,, who was Moriarty in "The Winged Scarab" (1983), one of the episodes in the television series "The Baker Street Boys" and Lestrade in the Granada series.
313. Some on-line publicity for "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" has Jared Harris playing a cameo role in Guy Ritchie's first film, but don't watch it again looking for him. According to the Internet Movie Data Base, the actor who played Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) was Ed Tolputt.
314. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Tim Johnson's report ("To the Success of Our Little Expedition") on a visit to the collections by local middle school students, offering a good demonstration of attracting young readers to Sherlock Holmes; Dick Sveum's "100 Years Ago" tribute to O. Henry, Julie McKuras' "50 Years Ago" discussion of address on "Sherlock Holmes" delivered by Lord Paul Gore-Booth in Delhi, and news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
315. It's likely that most Sherlockians enjoy reading books. Some Sherlockians may occasionally think about what might happen when there aren't any books. Jennie Paton found Johann Hari's interesting comments about this in The Independent (June 24) <www.tinyurl.com/6j7fyhw>.
316. SHERLOCK HOLMES & KOLCHAK: THE NIGHT STALKER was a three-issue comic-book series (Apr 09 #6); the story was written by Joe Gentile, with artwork by Andy Bennett and Carlos Magno, and is a spin-off from the television series that starred Darren McGavin (1974) and Stuart Townsend (2005). And there's a graphic novel (\$11.95) that includes all three issues and the alternate covers, published by Moonstone <www.moonstonebooks.com>. It's an interesting story, with imaginative artwork.
317. Sculptor David Cornell has accused the Crowborough town council of ruining his statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with sloppy cleaning methods, according to a story in the Sussex Courier (July 22), spotted by Al Gregory. The statue, unveiled ten years ago with members of Conan Doyle's extended family on hand for the ceremony (Apr 01 #3). "I think they have used an industrial cleaner," Cornell said, adding "All it needed was a wash with soapy water, then waxed and polished up the following day." Council operations manager David Foot told the paper that "It doesn't look brand new but then anything bronze left outside for ten years wouldn't and, to be honest, some people like things that look weathered." The council plans to decide soon whether to spend £450 to restore the statue, which originally cost £48,000.
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318. Jul 11 #5: The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Oscar Wilde Society installed a plaque at the Langham Hotel last year honoring the dinner that led to Lippincott's commissioning of "The Sign of Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (Mar 10 #3); Nicholas Utechin wrote a delightful account of the meeting and its aftermath, with an introduction by Gyles Brandreth, and copies of the 26-page pamphlet 'A GOLDEN DAY' are available (£5.00/£6.50/\$12.00) at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
319. Sherlock Holmes said that he had paid 55 shillings for his Stradivarius violin, and it would be worth more now. The "Lady Blunt" Stradivarius, one of the best-preserved in existence, set a new world's record of £9.8 million when it was sold at auction last month. It also set a record when it sold for £84,000 at Sotheby's in 1971.
320. Dicky Neely's THE CASE OF THE GRAVE ACCUSATION (London: MX Publishing, 2011; 87 pp., £7.99/£8.99/\$10.95) is an amusing pastiche that has Holmes and Watson investigating Rodger Garrick-Steele's claim that Bertram Fletcher Robinson was poisoned by his wife and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; Paul Spiring has added a detailed and up-to-date rebuttal. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.com>.
321. Al Gregory spotted Spies Online, a web-site with links to investigative resources, with some feline Sherlockian artwork <www.spiesonline.net>.
322. A story on Benedict Cumberbatch's new "Sherlock" mini-series in the Daily Mail attracted some comments from readers: Felix, in Worthing, noted that "these shows have elements of several plots in each episode so maybe this is the Offenbach falls(?) revisited." And (spotted by Lloyd Rose) Nick M., in Birmingham, wrote that "Felix Offenbach was a composer, I think you mean Reichenbach Falls, falling off a medium-sized composer is rarely, if ever fatal."

323. "Did you ever hear a bittern booming?" Stapleton asked Dr. Watson (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Judith Freeman has reported a story that BBC One television broadcast last year <www.tinyurl.com/3phearp> with what experts believed was the first footage of a male bittern booming in daylight in the UK.
324. Suvudu is an interesting web-site for fantasy and science fiction fans that was launched in 2008; last year there as an on-line "Cage Match: Villains!" that started off with a match between Sauron and Professor James Moriarty in the Slytherin Division. Moriarty was quickly eliminated, and eventually so was Sauron; the winner was The Mountain That Rides (Ser Gregor Clegane). Details at <www.suvudu.com/cage-match-villains-2010-bracket>.
325. There's now a finding aid for the Archives of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust, prepared by the Houghton Library at Harvard, where the Archives are housed. The finding aid is now on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/44vvrg8>, where scholars can see what's available at the Houghton. The Trust continues to add to the BSI Archives, of course, and there's more information about the Trust at <www.bsitrust.org>.

326. Jul 11 #6: Dick Olken has noted the Baker Street Babes, who describe themselves as "sexy fans of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his lovely creation, Mr. Sherlock Holmes." Visit <www.bakerstreetbabes.blogspot.com> to listen to their podcasts and their theme song. "Older than teenagers, but not yet taking herbal soothers for our hips, we're an intelligent bunch who fangirl by writing essays on the Canon while also giggling crazily at cracky fan comics."
327. Chris and Barbara Roden's New Year Warehouse Clearance Sale of books published by the Calabash Press (Jan 11 #5) is still on; the catalog's available at <[www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash Sale.pdf](http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash%20Sale.pdf)> [and yes, there's a space in that URL] or from the Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada).
328. Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Licking County Players on Aug. 4-14 at their theater at 131 West Main Street, Newark, OH 43055 (740-349-2287) <www.lickingcountyplayers.org>. His new comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will have its world premiere at the Cleveland Play House, Nov. 25 to Dec. 18 (Mar 11 #4).
329. Alfred Burke died on Feb. 16. Born in London, he began his acting career on the stage in the 1930s, appearing also in films and on television, and his last role was in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" (2002); in March 1952 he played the lead in Birmingham Repertory Theatre's production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes".
330. There are occasional Sherlockian references in the films of The Three Stooges, and Laura Kuhn has discovered Shopknuckleheads.com, where you'll find a Three Stooges CSI T-shirt <www.tinyurl.com/3b4uz21> and a Miracle Detective Agency magnet <www.tinyurl.com/3eece9n>.
331. News for Sherlockian racing fans: there's a new running of The Silver Blaze coming up, on Sept. 17 at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, N.J.; it's sponsored by The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and Kate Karlson (organizer of The Turf Builders of Baker Street), and more information on the event is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net>.
332. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GHOSTS OF BLY (New York: Pegasus Books, 2010; 364 pp., \$25.00) is the latest in Donald Thomas' series of collections of pastiches; there are three stories in the new volume, nicely plotted and well executed.
333. Greg Darak has reported Franz Lidz's article about ransom notes in the N.Y. Times (July 1), honoring the centennial of the comic short film "The Ransom of Red Chief" (based on O. Henry's story), "which may have started it all." Lidz also cites Arden Stern, a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Irvine, who has said that THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES features the first popular example of a cut-and-paste note. Stern's thesis, not yet completed, is titled "The Ransom Note Effect: Cut-and-Paste Typography in American Visual Culture".

334. Aug 11 #1: Laurie R. King's new novel about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes is PIRATE KING (New York: Bantam Books, 2011; 204 pp., \$25.00); it's set in 1924, and has Russell undercover investigating a British movie company that's making a movie about a movie company that's making a movie of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance". There are visits to Portugal and Morocco, real pirates, plenty of surprises, and a truly splendid set of opening paragraphs. Laurie's web-site is at <www.laurierking.com>, where she has details on her book tour, which begins on Sept. 6 and takes her as far east as Chicago. A British edition (with a different cover) is due on Sept. 12.
335. Romance detective Jamie McJack returns (in Sherlockian costume) in Danielle Corsetto's on-line comic strip available at <www.girlswithslingshots.com> (Dec 10 #4). The cast of characters includes cat as well as people of various genders and persuasions; check the archive for July 25-28.
336. John Baesch spotted an article in the N.Y. Times (June 9) with quotes from Jacki Mari, also known as Sherlockjacki; she and her husband are "intuitive information specialists, free-lance psychic profilers, and corporate intuitives," and her web-site at <www.sherlockjacki.com> more information about their services, as well as Sherlockian artwork.
337. What actor played Dr. Watson in 35 "Sherlock Holmes" programs on American radio in the 1940s, but isn't mentioned in any of the Sherlockian reference books? This isn't really a trivia question, of course, since it isn't easy to find him.
338. Roger Johnson reports "The Legacy of Sherlock Holmes", a 55-minute documentary written and produced by James Hodder and broadcast by the British radio station Resonance104.4fm on July 26. The program includes interviews with Sherlockians, actors, and authors, and can be heard at and downloaded from <www.soundcloud.com/radiohodder/the-legacy-of-sherlock-holmes>.
339. Anglofile, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment and formerly available by mail, now is a blog by Leslie King, and you can read her latest news at <anglofileplus.livejournal.com>; she offers early news of programs to come on PBS-TV and on BBC America.
340. Tina Rhea spotted an amusing basset hound in Sherlockian costume in a tenminute video ("The Mysterious Adventures of Sherlock Hounds") that was created by Charlie Foley to promote the King County (Washington) Library System's "Catch a Clue at the Library!" summer reading program in 2007. Monty stars as Sherlock Hounds at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztkWKwBi2bQ>
341. Robert A. Moss' "Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes: A Philatelic Celebration" is the cover story in the August issue of The American Philatelist (the journal of the American Philatelic Society); Moss, a member of The Baker Street Irregulars as well as a philatelist, has done an excellent job of surveying the many stamps that have honored Conan Doyle and Holmes, and the article is profusely illustrated in full color. \$4.95; 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 <www.stamps.org>. Bob has kindly made the article available on-line at <www.box.net/shared/f607ed808skv5egbo1m6>.

342. Aug 11 #2: A STUDY IN SHERLOCK: STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLMES CANON, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Bantam Books, 2011; 385 pp., \$15.00), is an excellent and interesting anthology of new stories, with authors ranging from Alan Bradley to Jacqueline Winspear; some of the stories are pastiches, but many others are indeed, and in various ways, inspired by the Canon.
343. Peter H. Wood ("The Second Stain") died on July 31. He was originally from the Isle of Man, and was a teacher there, and after he emigrated to Canada, in Saskatchewan and Alberta, where he founded The Edmonton Deerstalker and The C.P.R. Stockholder's Society; when he retired he moved to Vancouver and was an energetic member of The Stormy Petrels. The Bootmakers of Toronto made him a Master Bootmaker in 1983, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.

344. What actor played Dr. Watson in 35 "Sherlock Holmes" programs on American radio in the 1940s, but isn't mentioned in any of the Sherlockian reference books? Wendell Holmes. The "Sherlock Holmes" series broadcast by WOR-MBS in 1948-49 is widely listed as starring John Stanley as Sherlock Holmes and Ian Martin as Dr. Watson, but the story's quite different if one listens to the series (and they're widely available now). Watson was played by Martin in only the first four of the 39 episodes, and in the remaining episodes by George Spelvin, who really was Wendell Holmes. "George Spelvin" has been used as a theatrical alias for many years, and the producers of the series seem to have decided that listeners would be confused if Watson was played by someone named Holmes.
345. As far as I know, Daniel J. Morrow was the first to confirm (from Stanley) that the series used "George Spelvin" as an alias. There doesn't appear to be much information about Wendell Holmes: the Internet Movie Data Base notes that he was born in 1914 (as Oliver Wendell Holmes) and died in 1962, and appeared often in films and on television. Here's what he looked like in 1949, when he had a supporting role in the film "Lost Boundaries".
346. The electronic journal Ripperologist casts its net widely: the July issue (#121) reprints "Lot No. 249" with an interesting introduction and annotations by the journal's editor Eduardo Zinna. There is also an article by Jeff Mudgett with the intriguing title "Jack Is Holmes"; but it's not our Holmes: Mudgett's new book BLOODSTAINS tells the story of his great-great-grandfather Herman Webster Mudgett, better known as H. H. Holmes, who admitted to killing 27 people in Chicago in 1893. You can contact the editor at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information about subscriptions.
347. P. D. James wrote TALKING ABOUT DETECTIVE FICTION (2009) at the request of the Bodleian Library, which benefits from sales of the book, and there is an interesting chapter on "The Tenant of 221B Baker Street and the Parish Priest from Cobhole in Essex". The limited edition, signed and slipcased, is now out of print, but the British edition is still available (Bodleian Library, £12.99); the American edition from Knopf is out of print, but there is a trade paperback published this year (Vintage, \$14.00). Fans of G. K. Chesterton will know that the parish priest is Father Brown.

348. Aug 11 #3: The Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize for American Humor will be awarded to Will Ferrell on Oct. 23. He is noted for his appearances on "Saturday Night Live" and in films and his one-man comedy show on Broadway, but (so far) not for playing Dr. Watson with Sasha Baron Cohen as Holmes in a film announced by Columbia Pictures (Jul 08 #3); that film's in what's politely described as "development hell".
349. Brit Movie Tours offers Sherlock Holmes tours in London that include locations featured in film and television adaptations, with public walks, private group walking tours, and car and coach tours; you can visit their web-site at <www.britmovietours.com/bookings/sherlock-holmes-london-tour>.
350. The U.S. Postal Service has honored the centennial of Ronald Reagan's birth. He wrote to O. Dallas Baillio (director of the public library in Mobile, Ala.) in 1977, describing his debt to public libraries and the books he read as a young boy in Dixon, Ill.: "Then came the Zane Grey phase, Horatio Alger and Sherlock Holmes, and, of course, Mark Twain with Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn." In 1992 the Reagans dined at The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street and were greeted by Holmes and Watson (costumed actors Stewart Quentin Holmes and John Barrett-Watson); there's more about that in a story in the Sherlock Holmes Gazette (spring 1993).
351. "Even Sherlock Holmes would have been perplexed by this mystery," an advertisement by GovMint.com proclaimed in the Washington Post (Aug. 5). It's "a real-life mystery Sir Arthur Conan Doyle couldn't write. And Sherlock Holmes couldn't solve," the advertisement promised, but the only connection seems to be that Conan Doyle killed off Holmes in a book published in 1894, and a hoard of Roman bronze coins was found in England in 1895. 1,661 of the coins were sold at auction last year for £46,694 [\$76,251], and they're now being offered at \$179 (if you buy five or more); the calculation is a simple one, as someone once said: anyone who acted quickly could have had them all for a mere \$279,319.
352. The Internet Archive is a fine resource for researchers: Virginia Aldrich reports that they have links to scans of the first 64 volumes of The Strand Magazine (from bound volumes); some scans are faster to open than others, but <www.archive.org/details/TheStrandMagazineAnIllustratedMonthly> gives you slow-speed access to all 64 volumes.
353. Forecast: WINTER AT DEATH'S HOTEL, by Kenneth Cameron (from Orion in November, £12.95); Arthur Conan Doyle and his wife Louisa arrive in New York in January 1896 to begin his first American tour and there is a series of brutal murders, and with the help of a hard-bitten detective and an ambitious female news reporter, "Louisa starts to piece together a story of madness, murder, and depravity."
354. The auction for the Lordship of the Manor of Manaton in Devon (Jun 11 #1) is underway, and details are available at the web-site of Manorial Auctioneers <www.ms.gb.co.uk>; they believe that Manaton inspired THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and estimate the Lordship at £20,000 to £30,000 (and if you intend to bid, you'll need to pay £25 for a "Baskerville Pack").

355. Aug 11 #4: The school board of Albemarle County, Va., has reached a final decision on whether A STUDY IN SCARLET should be dropped from the approved reading list for sixth graders (Jul 11 #1): the book has been removed from the list. A local parent complained that the book was unfair to Mormons, but the board decided that the book was not "age appropriate" for the sixth grade. The parent has suggested that THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES ("a better introduction to mystery") could be substituted for A STUDY IN SCARLET. The board's decision has been widely reported, more often than not in stories and blogs that said (incorrectly) that A STUDY IN SCARLET has been banned from school library shelves. As might be expected, there was a quick increase in the number of downloads of A STUDY IN SCARLET from Project Gutenberg.
356. John Wood died on Aug. 6. He began his acting career in the mid-1950s with the Old Vic Company in London, and went on to perform often with the Royal Shakespeare Company in London and New York, and in films and on television. He won a well-deserved Tony nomination for his title role in their revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974.
357. The Pleasant Places of Florida show what can be done with a society's web-site <www.ppofl.net>: they have made available PDF files of all 306 issues of their newsletter Communications (from Mar. 1972 onward) as well as their other publications.
358. Further to the report (Jul 11 #5) about sculptor David Cornell's complaints that his statue of Conan Doyle had been ruined by sloppy cleaning methods, Brian Pugh reports that the Crowborough town council has decided to pay a specialist £450 to clean up the statue this year, and £300 a year in future to maintain it.
359. Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Unraveling Strand" is the title of a mystery weekend scheduled in Cambridge, Ohio, on Jan. 6-7. More information is available at <www.visitguernseycounty.com>; click on "What To Do" and then on "Sherlock Holmes Weekend".
360. Another (non-Sherlockian) Murder Mystery Weekend is scheduled at Madden's at Gull Lake in Brainerd, Minn., Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Details are available at <www.maddens.com/?page=112390>.
361. "How to Make Phosphorus Out of Pee" is an intriguing (and amusing) blogpost by Ether Inglis-Arkell, who says that her first introduction to phosphorus was reading THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES; I haven't experimented to determine whether it works, but will be happy to hear from anyone who gives it a try <www.io9.com/5832776/how-to-make-phosphorus-using-pee>.
362. CBS News conducts a monthly "60 Minutes/Vanity Fair Poll" (of 1,045 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone), and one of the questions, reported in the Sept. issue was "Which of these fictional character would you most like to go on adventures with?". Sherlock Holmes came in second

overall, and for men and for people older than 45; James Bond ranked first, and Captain Jack Sparrow third (except for women and people younger than 45, with whom he outranked Holmes). Harry Potter came in fourth for everyone, and Lara Croft fifth.

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363. Aug 11 #5: Stephen R. Alton's impressive article "The Game Is Afoot!: The Significance of Donative Transfers in the Sherlock Holmes Canon in the spring issue of the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal is a fine example of what happens when someone with specialized knowledge brings it to bear on the Sherlock Holmes stories. It's a long article (47 pages) because the author assumes his readers may not have read the Canon and reviews events in some details, but he has discovered a few twists and turns that appear to be new to Sherlockian scholarship. Sonia Fetherson's husband Ben noted the article, and she reports that the best way for Sherlockians to read it will be to find someone who's a member of the American Bar Association and can download it from <www.americanbar.org>; search for [rpte journal].
364. The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) are co-sponsoring The Fourth Newberry Library Sir Arthur Conan Doyle-Sherlock Holmes Symposium on Oct. 1; 60 West Walton Street in Chicago, from 9:30 am to noon. The event is open to the public without charge, and the speakers will be Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower (on Conan Doyle's THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH), Jacquelyn Morris (on the continuing campaign to save Undershaw), and Henry Zecher (on William Gillette).
365. The British Library will mount a small exhibition showcasing the manuscript THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH and other material from their extensive Conan Doyle, exploring "the context of his literary apprenticeship and his early struggles to gain professional recognition," Sept. 9 through Jan. 5. in the Sir John Ritblat Gallery <www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/acdoyle/index.htm>.
366. Jim Ballinger has spotted a bone china Baker Street Mug with an imaginatively stylized Sherlockian design (with "221B Baker Street NW" imprinted on the other side) available from Whittard of Chelsea <www.whittard.co.uk> for £8.00.
367. Lara Bergen's SOPHIE THE SNOOP (New York: Scholastic, 2011; 102 pp., \$4.99) is part of a series for readers ages 9-12; the cover and illustrations (by Laury Tallardy) show Sophie in Sherlockian costume; the text has Sophie hoping to be Sherlock Holmes. Megan McDonald's JUDY MOODY, GIRL DETECTIVE (Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2010; 170 pp., \$15.99) is Sherlockian only for Peter H. Reynolds' cover and title-page artwork, but it's an amusing story for readers in grades 1-3.
368. People who want to watch DVDs recorded in other regions, and who don't have multi-region software installed on their computers, should download the VLC freeware from <www.videolan.org>; it's useful and efficient.
369. A movie trivia challenge: Julie McKuras recently watched the film "Friends of Mr. Sweeney" (1934), which was based on a novel by Elmer Davis, and she notes that Berton Churchill, one of the actors in the film, also appeared in "Danger on the Air" (1938), which was based on the novel DEATH CATCHES UP WITH MR. KLUCK, by Xantippe (a pen name used by Edith Meiser); Jon Lellenberg adds that Berton Churchill also appeared in "The Spanish Cape Mystery" (1935), based on the novel by Ellery Queen (Fred Dannay and Manfred Lee). Are there other actors who have appeared in films that were based on novels written by different members of The Baker Street Irregulars?
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370. Aug 11 #6: Les Klinger reports an interesting, and perhaps useful data base at <www.oldbaileyonline.org>, where "The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913" are easily searchable. On Nov. 21, 1887, James Moriarty (aged 17) was one of three defendants tried for violent theft and robbery, but "the prosecutor, a sailor, did not answer when called upon his recognisances." With no evidence entered for the prosecution, the defendants were found not guilty. And there's much more to the web-site, including an excellent discussion of "Currency, Coinage, and the Cost of Living"; click on "Research and Study Guides" and then on "London and its Hinterlands".
371. Sandy Kozinn notes that <www.smithsonian.com/taj> has information about and a fine photograph of the "old fort at Agra" (as in "The Sign of the Four").
372. William R. Cochran's THINKING OUTSIDE THE TIN-DISPATCH BOX: THE POST REICHENBACH SHERLOCK HOLMES is a collection of his essays about the chronology and many other aspects of the Canon; Bill was a co-founder of The Occupants of the Empty House and has enthusiastically pursued Sherlockian scholarship for more than 30 years. The 168-page book costs \$20.00 from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 122, Sauk City, WI 53583 and Box 50, R.R. 4, Eugenia, ON NOC 1E1, Canada) <www.batteredbox.com>.
373. It's well worth checking sales offers at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> once in a while: four books in the Baker Street Irregulars International Series have been available as a set at half price, and there's one set remaining; click on [items for sale] and then on [deal table].
374. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-7.htm>, with offers of Sherlockiana, old and new, books and more, and a report (with photographs) of the annual summer picnic of the Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Problem.
375. Yuri Rasovsky notes that AudioFile's web-site <www.audiofilemagazine.com> has a "Listener's Guide to Sherlock Holmes" with samples, reviews, interviews, and an excellent audiography of recordings of Conan Dole's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories.
376. Peggy Perdue's "Letters from Lomax" is a continuing series of reports from the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Reference Library, and in the summer issue she offers an interesting discussion of Doylean and Sherlockian music and musicals; the quarterly journal is published by The Bootmakers of Toronto (TDC Postal Station Box 1157, 77 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5K 1P2, Canada <www.sherlockian.net/bootmakers> (\$35.00 a year).
377. It has always been a bit embarrassing, as a geologist, not ever having been in an earthquake, and although it has taken a while to achieve that goal, I'm happy to report that on the afternoon of Aug. 23 the earth moved, and the house shook, thanks to a magnitude 5.8 earthquake epicentered in Virginia about 87 miles southwest of Washington. And there were a few crooked pictures to prove to doubters that there really had been a quake.
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378. Sep 11 #1: Jennie Paton reports that all 26 episodes of the animated children's series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999) can be viewed using Amazon Instant Video (streaming on-line); \$1.99 per episode, \$13.99 for all 26, and at no charge if you're a member of Amazon Prime (which also gets you unlimited fast shipping and costs \$79.00 a year). They also offer all 26 episodes of the animated children's series "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" (1983); \$1.99 per episode, \$28.99 for all 26. And Maurice Sendak's "Little Bear" series, which includes "Little Sherlock Bear" (a segment in episode 18); \$1.99.
379. YouTube continues to offer a fertile field for distribution of amateur videos, Sherlockian and otherwise: Susan Rice and Mickey Fromkin's niece Melissa Kelley has reported an amusing animation by Beth Milgate, which can be seen at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=icSNeG-kurE> it's well worth taking a look at other Sherlockian videos posted by yrti0121.
380. The Postal Service has issued a set of stamps with images from various Disney-Pixar films, among them the animation "Up" (2009) which offers an nice visual homage to "The Lost World" (Carl Frederickson's goal is Paradise Falls, which flows down the side of a plateau that has an isolated separate pinnacle, just as in the book and the films based on it). Other stamps in the set honor "Cars", "Ratatouille", "Toy Story", and "Wall-E".
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381. Joe Cooper died on Aug. 16. He was an enthusiastic promoter of astrology and psychic investigation, and his sympathetic approach to Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths persuaded them to describe to him how they had faked the famous photographs that he discussed in detail in *THE CASE OF THE COTTINGLEY FAIRIES* (1990).
 382. Harry Stephen Keeler, according to Google Books, is to some an overlooked genius, and to others the Ed Wood of detective fiction. And his novel *THE RIDDLE OF THE TRAVELING SKULL* (1934) features Milo Payne, who appears with a "long-beaked Sherlockholmsian cap" (noted by Paul Williams in *Ineffable Twaddle*, the monthly newsletter of *The Sound of the Baskervilles*). Keller seems to have invented the word (with that spelling).
 383. The Byook (Feb 11 #4) isn't the only opportunity to have an enhanced reading experience on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch. Booktrack now offers sound effects and soundtracks for stories that include "The Speckled Band" (their web-site <www.booktrack.com> has previews of their "soundtracks for books").
 384. Lenny Picker notes that Publishers Weekly held an on-line "Sherlock Holmes Best Narrator Poll" that was won by David Timson (38.81%); Edward Hardwicke came in second (25.37%), and Simon Prebble was third (8.96%). The runnersup were John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, and Orson Welles (as a trio), Ralph Cosham, Charlton Griffin, and Edward Raleigh. Charles Griffin, a new discovery, has recorded the entire Canon for Audio Connoisseur; you can listen to samples and download the recordings at <www.audiofile.com>.
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385. Sep 11 #2: "Wanted: A Home for Holmes So Portsmouth Can Cash in on Sherlock" was the headline on a story Al Gregory discovered in the Portsmouth News (Aug. 23). Councillor Lee Hunt, who's in charge of cultural issues, has asked the public to suggest permanent venues for an exhibition called "Sherlock Holmes: Made in Portsmouth"; according to Hunt, "221b Baker Street attracted two million visits in its first few years, so if we were to charge £10 per head that would be £20 million coming into the city from the exhibition alone, forgetting the money which will come from hotels and restaurant visits." Of course The arithmetic is interesting: 1000 people a day for 365 days makes 365,000 people a year, and it would take more than five years to get to two million. And a skeptic might wonder whether the Sherlock Holmes Museum ever had 1,000 visits in a single day.
 386. The Postal Service has commemorated the 150th anniversary of statehood for Kansas, where John Garrideb was a counsellor at law in Moorville.
 387. You can visit <www.cracked.com> and search for [mental illnesses] to see their discussion of "6 Beloved Characters That Had Undiagnosed Mental Illnesses"; it leads with Sherlock Holmes (Asperger's Syndrome), and includes Ariel (disposophobia), Belle (schizoid personality disorder), Holden Caulfield (post-traumatic stress disorder), and Glinda the Good Witch (sadistic personality disorder). Kindly reported by Ann Lewis.
 388. Town Head, on the southern tip of Windermere, is for sale for £5.25 million (Telegraph, Aug. 27, 2011); the article mentions that the Grade II listed house allegedly inspired "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (no further information seems to be available). Carter Jonas <www.carterjonas.co.uk> is the realtor; search for [ulverston].
 389. N. F. Simpson died on Aug. 31. Kenneth Tynan said he was "the most gifted comic writer the English stage had discovered since the war," and Simpson had great success as a writer from the 1950s to the 1980s, widely praised an absurdist playwright. He wrote the script for "Elementary, My Dear Watson" (a 30-minute program broadcast by the BBC in its "Comedy Playhouse in 1973 starring John Cleese and William Rushton as Holmes and Watson).
 390. Anthony Horowitz's *THE HOUSE OF SILK*, due in November, is going to be widely read: Jon Lellenberg reports that translations rights have been sold to publishers in Brazil, Bulgaria, China, France, Germany, Korea, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Serbia, and Spain.
 391. There's an unusual event, open to the pubic, scheduled at Harvard University in Cambridge on Nov. 3, thanks to the Houghton Library and The Speckled Band. The festivities start pm a sherry reception at the Houghton at 5:30 pm, with a viewing of an exhibition from the Band's H. W. Bell Collection, followed by a gourmet dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club and a presentation by Dan Posnansky on Bell and his classic *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DOCTOR WATSON: THE CHRONOLOGY OF THEIR ADVENTURES*. The evening's cost is \$100 per person, payable through PayPal to SpeckledBand@comcast.net, or by check (made out to The speckled Band) mailed to Richard Olken (1313 Washington Street #306, Boston, MA 02118).
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392. Sep 11 #3: The Bookseller has reported (Aug. 24) that BBC Books is planning to publish some of the Canon as a tie-in with the television series "Sherlock". The first title will be *CONAN DOYLE'S SHERLOCK: A STUDY IN SCARLET*, with an introduction by series co-creator Steven Moffat (Sept. 15; £6.99; *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, with an introduction by Mark Gatiss will follow (Oct. 27). Three more titles will follow next spring: *THE SIGN OF FOUR*, *THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, and *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*. And next fall there will be *THE CASEBOOK* "as a hardback gift guide that will revisit all the mysteries solved throughout the series" (£14.99).
 393. Lloyd Rose found Red Scharlach's amusing cartoon (posted at his blog on Sept. 6); he's at <www.redscharlach.livejournal.com>.
 394. "Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back!" was performed and recorded by the Wireless Theatre Company in August in London during the Camden Fringe Festival. The amusing one-hour show, written by Peter Davis and Matthew Woodcock, features the authors playing Holmes and Watson; go to go to <www.wirelesstheatrecompny.co.uk> to listen to and download the recording (there's no charge).
 395. Roy Ward Baker died on Oct. 5, 2010. He began his career in 1934 fetching coffee for staff members at Gainsborough Pictures, and by 1938 was assistant director on Alfred Hitchcock's "The Lady Vanishes"; he continued on to a long and distinguished career as a director in film and on television and was best known for directing "A Night to Remember" (1958). He also directed four episodes of the Sheldon Reynolds television series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1980) and Peter Cushing "The Masks of Death" (1984).
 396. Takeshi Shimizu has succeeded in arranging for a plaque honoring Dr. Joseph Bell to be installed at his last residence, at 2 Melville Crescent in Edinburgh. The house is now the Japanese General Consulate, and the plaque is to be unveiled on Oct. 8, the first Saturday after the centenary of Bell's death on Oct. 4, 1911. The unveiling ceremony will be followed by a reception at the General Consulate, which now is an interesting addition to the list of Sherlockian sites for visitors to Edinburgh.
 397. The Theatre Arts Guild will present David Belke's play "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" at the Pond Playhouse, Apr. 19 through May 5; the theater's address is 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, NS B3P 1R3, Canada (902-477-2663) <www.tagtheatre.com>.
 398. Bill Barnes spotted a report in the Moscow Times (Aug. 11) that Lenfilm has fallen on hard times. Lenfilm, one of Russia's oldest movies studios, was founded in 1918 and has made more than 1,500 films, including the well-received television series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1979); it now makes only three to four films a year and is struggling to stay afloat, according to the article. A Russian tycoon wants to buy the company and use the studio for lucrative construction projects.
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399. Sep 11 #4: As with many other web-sites the Smithsonian has blogs, including Karen Abbott's "'Mrs. Sherlock Holmes' Takes on the NYPD"; search for [humiston] at <www.smithsonian.com>. Grace Humiston was a lawyer-turned-investigator who fought against "white slavery"; according to a story in the N.Y. Times (on June 24, 1917), "It was like dropping in at Baker Street and having Holmes throw the pipe, the violin, and hypodermic out of the

- window and begin to discuss how many strawberries make a shortcake." And the reporter continued: "Frankly, so far as appearances go, Mrs. Humston is badly miscast in the role of sleuth extraordinary, or as the program might say--'Mrs. Sherlock Holmes.'" Reported by Tina Rhea.
400. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled by the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha Theatre Department on Oct. 21-23, at the Fine Arts Center, 1500 North University Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188 (no phone number or URL available).
401. Mia Trona, an Italian admirer of Jeremy Brett, has donated funds to establish a scholarship program at the Central School of Speech & Drama at the University of London, where Brett studied, graduating in 1954. There are five scholarships available in 2011-12, and an additional two awards in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. Additional information is available at <www.cssd.ac.uk/content/news>.
402. The last time I mentioned Lego bricks (Sep 06 #1) there wasn't a Sherlockian minifigure available But there is one now, spotted by Samantha Wolov; search for [lego minifigure detective] to find it at Amazon and eBay and elsewhere, priced as low as 25¢ (plus far more for shipping).
403. Jacquelyn Applegate's SELENA JONES: TRIAL AND ERROR: FEATURING SHERLOCK HOLMES (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2010; 155 pp., \$13.00) is the first book in a projected series featuring a young woman who has detective skills and manages to attract the attention of Sherlock Holmes, who plays a supporting role in her adventures and who winds up demonstrating a rather emotional attachment to Selena; there's more information about the book and the author at <www.sites.google.com/site/selenajonesmysteries>.
404. Bryce L. Crawford Jr. ("The Solitary Cyclist") died on Sept. 16. He was a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota, one of the founders of The Norwegian Explorers in 1948, co-editor of their anthology CULTIVATING SHERLOCK HOLMES (1978) and a stalwart member of the society over many decades. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.
405. The Hollywood Reporter carried a story (Sept. 13) about CBS having ordered a script for a modern-day "Sherlock Holmes" drama from CBS Television Studios, producers Sarah Timberman and Carl Beverly, and scriptwriter Rob Doherty; one assumes that someone at CBS has seen Benedict Cumberbatch's series and decided that there's a better way to do it. Copycatting is hardly new in the entertainment industry: news of the Warner Bros. film starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law inspired Columbia Pictures to announce plans for a comedy with Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson (Jul 08 #3); the world is still waiting for that one.
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406. Sep 11 #5: Further to the report (Aug 10 #2) on the web-site that allows you to "check which famous writer you write like" <www.iwl.me>, Karen Murdock has an interesting and imaginative article "Do You Write Like Arthur Conan Doyle?" in the fall issue of The Serpentine Muse. The Muse is published quarterly by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
407. The Toronto Reference Library's "Re:vitalize" project includes a new Arthur Conan Doyle Room to be built within a new Special Collections Centre; work on the new room begins on Oct. 3, when the existing room will close. There is a brief blog by curator Peggy Perdue at <www.tinyurl.com/3kxc4cB>.
408. "Darlock Holmes & Dalek Watson" was drawn by freelance cartoonist Anthony Naylor, whose caption is "When you exterminate the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must also be exterminated." The cartoon is on display in full color at <www.tonecartoons.co.uk/blog/archives/559>. Tina Rhea gets credit for reporting it.
409. Steve Emecz has announced that MX Publishing will sponsor a worldwide electronic debate on Nov. 10; the topic of "The Great Sherlock Holmes Debate" will be "BBC's Sherlock vs. Guy Ritchie's Movies: Which Is More Beneficial to Holmes in the 21st Century"; there will be two teams, and free on-line seats for 100 audience members. Go to <www.mxpublishing.com/page/Debate> for additional information about the event.
410. MX also has published BAREFOOT ON BAKER STREET, by Charlotte Ann Walters, who has set herself a "blogging challenge" and started on Sept. 20 writing a blog a day on each of the 56 short stories in the Canon. You'll find her blog at <www.barefootonbakerstreet.wordpress.com>.
411. For the completists: Andy Peck reports that there's a Mystery Guild edition of A STUDY IN SHERLOCK, at <www.mysteryguild.com>, where you'll find other Sherlockian titles available to members; search for [sherlock]. And if you search for [conan doyle] you'll also find Graham Moore's THE SHERLOCKIAN.
412. Michael Pointer reported in THE PUBLIC LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1975) that "On one occasion Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce appeared as guests on a comedy radio show and swapped their regular parts, with Rathbone as a bumbling Watson and Bruce as a sharp detective Holmes." The radio show was "Request Performance" (a 30-minute series sponsored by Campbell Soup and broadcast by CBS in 1945 and 1946), and the five-minute Sherlockian segment aired on Nov. 4, 1945. It's nice indeed that we can listen to the segment, kindly reported by Bert Coules (who in turn thanked Steven Moffat) on the Internet at <www.basilrathbone.net/radio/mp3/requestperf1945.mp3>.
413. The web-site's title is "Basil Rathbone: Master of Stage and Screen" and it is maintained by Marcia Jessen, who has created an excellent catalog of his appearances on stage, screen, radio, television, and records, with opportunities to listen and view. This may be your first time to see a photograph of Rathbone (as Holmes) and Dagmar (as Dagmar) on television in the 1950s.
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414. Sep 11 #6: In addition to the exhibition showcasing the manuscript of THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH (Aug 11 #5), the British Library will present a public event on Nov. 27 with Anthony Horowitz, the author of the upcoming pastiche HOUSE OF SILK, and Roger Johnson, the editor of the Sherlock Holmes Journal; 2:30 to 4:00 pm at the British Library Conference Centre (96 Euston Road in London) and tickets will cost £7.50.
415. Joan Proubasta has kindly forwarded Alberto Lopez Aroca's SHERLOCK HOLMES Y LOS ZOMBIS DE CAMFORD (Palma de Mallorca: Dolmen Editorial, 2011; 280 pp., £16.95); it's the latest of his Sherlockian pastiches. His earlier story, ("El problema del la pequena cliente") appears to be unique for including Mary Poppins as a character in a Sherlockian pastiche.
416. "The Travels of Sherlock Holmes--It's All About Location, Location, Location" is the theme of the annual "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 5th; the sponsors are the local Sherlockian societies, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore. The event's sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, and there is no charge.
417. Work has started on a new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" series, according to a report from Bert Coules. There will be 16 episodes, filmed in St. Petersburg, with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrey Panin as Watson, and you can visit <www.rt.com/news/prime-time/sherlock-holmes-russian-adaptation-875> to see a brief video report.
418. Lenny Picker has reported a Sherlockian episode of the animated childrens' series "Curious George" that aired on Sept. 6: in "The Great Monkey Detective" George imagines himself as a detective and watches a take-off of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on television. The episode is scheduled to repeat on Oct. 12 and Nov. 14 on PBS-TV.
419. Maria Konnikova contributes a guest blog to Scientific American's web-site <blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog>, and has been discussing Sherlock site, including David Bresan's "It's sedimentary, my dear Watson" (part of his discussion of the history of geology). Thanks to Les Klinger and Dan Stashower for reporting the Konnikova blogs.

420. Sherlock Holmes will return to the Victorian Village Inn for a special seven-course champagne English countryside dinner on Oct. 22; more information is available from the management (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094) (800-348-4552) <www.avictorianvilla.com>. John Sherwood, who serves as Mr. Holmes' scheduler, reports that he plans a series of activities to augment the grand meal, but regrets that Dr. Watson will not be able to attend.
421. John Longenbaugh's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Artists Repertory Theatre from Nov. 15 through Dec. 24; "literature's favorite quirky inquisitor is infused with the spirit of crotchety Ebenezer Scrooge in an unusual holiday show." 1515 SW Morrison, Portland, OR 97205 (503-241-1278) <www.artistsrep.org>.

422. Oct 11 #1: Reported: Sherlock Holmes is mentioned three times in Lonely Planet's 1,000 ULTIMATE SIGHTS (Oakland: Lonely Planet, 2011; 352 pp., \$22.99), in entries for Reichenbach Falls (most impressive waterfalls), Baker Street (best literary sites), and Baker Street (most interesting subway stations).
423. Kandie Carle's one-act play "Sherlock Holmes: From Page to Stage" will be presented by the East Haddam Stage Company at the Mark Twain House Museum on Dec. 8 and 9; the play "explores William Gillette's journey from Victorian stage actor to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's master sleuth." 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 (860-280-3130) <www.marktwainhouse.org>.
424. Criminal Element, "a community web-site featuring daily content for fans of the crime and mystery genres in all of their forms," recently published Guy Bergstrom's "Death Brackets", a contest in which he matched "master detectives" against "spies, assassins, and anti-heroes"; Sherlock Holmes was one of the master detectives, and made it into the semi-finals. You can read all about it at <www.criminalelement.com/features/series/death-brackets>.
425. ISO [that's "in search of" in the personal ads] a postal or e-mail address for Millard Cecil, reported to be contact for a Sherlockian society called The Crouching Lions.
426. For the completists: Judith Solberg found a new version of the Sherlockian nutcracker that was available from Target last year (Dec 10 #4); it's exactly the same, except that the date on the base is 2011 rather than 2010. It still costs \$12.99, and is available at their stores or their web-site <www.target.com/p/Decorative-Nutcracker-Detective/-/A-13508848>.
427. "Make a Bid, Seller Is Motivated" was the headline on a listing spotted by Garth Hazlett in Forbes (Sept. 12): Updown Court, Windlesham, Surrey, England, has been on the market since 2005; the current asking price of \$124 million. It's not Conan Doyle's home Windlesham, which is in Crowborough in Sussex (Windlesham also is the name of a town in Surrey). Updown Court is England's most expensive home, and has 103 rooms (including two indoor pools) and a heated marble driveway. And of course there's an informative web-site at <www.updowncourt.com>.
428. Garth also has spotted a Sherlockian connection for Moammar Gadhafi, in the Toronto Star (Sept. 21): Diane Sawtch's article about Foyles mentions that Gahaffi once deposited £500,000 with the legendary bookstore to supply him and his government departments with books; the authors requested included John le Carre, Barbara Cartland, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
429. The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Thelma Beam's report on a newly-acquired collection of letters Conan Doyle wrote to his wife during their American tour in 1923, Barbara Rusch's discussion of "The Ring of Thoth" (the story that launched a flood of movies about mummies), and other news from and about the collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

430. Oct 11 #2: The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Dan Stashower's report on four recently-acquired manuscript letters, three written by Conan Doyle about the medium Margery and one by Margery herself, and a "50 Years Ago" tribute by Jon Lellenberg and Peter Blau to Bill Rabe and his landmark SHERLOCKIAN WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT, and other new from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
431. John Garden, the keyboard player and musical director of the American band Scissor Sisters ("spawned by the scuzzy gay nightlife scene of New York") has composed an original score for the silent film "The Lost World" (1925), which was screened with live accompaniment in England in October; audio and video samples are available at <www.johngarden.net>.
432. Otto Penzler reports that there will be reading and signing at the Mysterious Bookshop in New York on Nov. 7, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, featuring Anthony Horowitz (author of the new pastiche THE HOUSE OF SILK) and Michael Dirda (author of the new ON CONAN DOYLE, OR THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING; signed copies also will be available for those who can't attend. 58 Warren Street in New York <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
433. Paul Singleton reports that he will perform as Sherlock Holmes in a staged reading of Alex Simmons' play "Sherlock Holmes and the Hands of Othello" in the Workshop Theater Company's Jewel Box Theater at 6:00 pm on Dec. 4. No charge for admission; 312 West 36th Street (4th floor), between 8th and 9th Avenues in New York City (212-695-4173) <www.workshoptheater.org>.
434. Peter Hammond died on Oct. 12. He began his theatrical career as an actor, and went on to become a prolific television director, with credits ranging from "The Avenger" (1960) to eight of the programs in Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series.
435. Work continues on the museum exhibit "Sherlock Holmes" The Science of Deduction" (Apr 11 #5); there's a preliminary web-site display of information at <www.exhibitsdevelopment.com/InDevelopment.html>, and there are links to descriptions of other exhibits already on tour. The "Sherlock Holmes" exhibit will begin touring in 2013. And in the meantime there's a "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction" cocktail: Dewar's, Cointreau, fresh lemon juice, and bitters.
436. Tracy Revels' SHADOWFALL: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: MX Publishing, 2011; 193 pp., £9.99/E12.99/\$16.95) is a thriller that involves Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in the world of the wizards and wizardry, and in a battle for "the safety of the British Empire, and Doctor Watson's mortal soul." The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
437. Also from MX Publishing: RENDEZVOUS AT THE POPULAIRE: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 203 pp., £9/99/E12.99/\$16.95); Kate Workman's version of the battle between Sherlock Holmes and the Phantom of the Opera. THE OUTSTANDING MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 317 pp., £12.99/E14.99/\$19.95); 13 short stories written and illustrated by Gerard Kelly.

438. Oct 11 #3: Conan Doyle's THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH (London: British Library, 2011; 138 pp., £10.00/\$16.00) offers a delightful look at an author at the start of his career, with an interesting introduction by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Rachel Foss, and excellent footnotes. It's much more of a journal than a novel, and it offers the author's philosophy and opinions, as well as intriguing foreshadowing of many themes and phrases found in his later work, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian. There's an impressive report on the manuscript, and on the book, at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/narrative-john-smith-ms.htm>, Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site.

439. Michael Dirda discovered Sherlock Holmes in *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* at a time when a dollar bought "two or three candy bars, a box of Cracker Jack, and a cold bottle of Orange Crush" (all of which he enjoyed while he read the book). He tells that story, and many more, in *ON CONAN DOYLE: OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011; 210 pp., \$19.95), which is far more than a delightful introduction to Conan Doyle and his work, and to The Baker Street Irregulars (described by Dirda as a "mysterious literary society" that surely will be less mysterious now to those who read this book): those who need no such introduction will find many pleasant surprises in his insights and infectious enthusiasm for Conan Doyle. Recommended.
440. Mark Alberstat's 2012 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from *The Strand Magazine*, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. US\$15.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.
441. The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, The Toronto Public Library, and The Bookmakers of Toronto presented an excellent symposium on "Arthur Conan Doyle: A Study in Scandal" this month; the speakers included Les Klinger (an illustrated presentation on "The Other Victorians: A Study of Pornography and Pornographers in the Time of Arthur Conan Doyle") and Bill Mason ("Arthur Conan Doyle on Trial: The Murder of Sherlock Holmes"), and a chance to see an exhibit of some of the treasures in the Collection. "What fun we had!" the symposium web-site explains, "And now it's over. Nothing left but gossip and rumour." Another symposium is possible in 2016.
442. Another interesting presentation at the symposium was Doug Elliott's "The Piltdown Code" (available thanks to the wonders of modern technology): in Australia, Doug offered a documentary that carefully examined the suggestion that Conan Doyle perpetrated the famous Piltdown hoax. Modern technology (Skype) also enabled a question-and-answer session after the presentation. And there's more: the documentary, which exonerates Conan Doyle, is available on-line in two 15-minute segments at <www.youtube.com>; search for [piltdown code].
443. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Market Bar-B-Que in Minneapolis on Oct. 12, when visiting geologists were welcomed by Julie McKuras and other members of the local Sherlockian society (The Norwegian Explorers). Our next dinners will be in Long Beach on Apr. 12 and in Charlotte on Nov. 7.
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444. Oct 11 #4: Will there be a third "Sherlock Holmes" film that stars Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law? Will they become the Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce of the 21st century? According to Law, "I always steal a line that Robert said: if everyone else is as happy and enthusiastic for us to carry on doing it, then we'll probably carry on doing it." Not that one need be in any doubt: Variety has reported (Oct. 23) that Warner Bros. has hired Drew Pearce to write the new script; Pearce also is writing a script for "Iron Man 3" (which will star Downey as Tony Stark/Iron Man).
445. And Brenda Rossini spotted an amusing story in the Guardian (Oct. 26) that compares the new film with the Benedict Cumberbatch series; the categories include "best exploding tree sequence" and "sexiest female lead". You can go to <www.guardian.co.uk> and search for [mongolian costume].
446. Otto Penzler's MysteriousPress.com (Jun 11 #5) is now up and running as an electronic publisher, at <www.mysteriouspress.com>, with about 40 books already available, and many more to come. The e-books are available from Amazon, iTunes, and Barnes & Noble, and include a wide range of classic mystery, crime, suspense, and espionage.
447. Thanks to Andy Solberg, who has observed and reported an entry at the Sherlockian Who's Who web-site, there is news of an active Sherlockian society in mainland China: it's The Chinese Sherlockian Society, which has an attractive and interesting web-site at <www.sherlockian.org/sh/home.php>; the web-site's even more interesting if you have Google's "Translate" installed on your computer. Their forum at <www.sherlockian.org/sh/forum/index.php> also is worth a visit.
448. The Sherlockian Who's Who at <www.sh-whoswho.com> also is well worth a visit ; it's maintained by La Societe Sherlock Holmes de France, and it offers an easy way to locate and contact individual Sherlockians as well as Sherlockian societies that have provided that information to the Who's Who.
449. Further to the report (Sep 10 #4) about the "Sherlock" violin made by Steve Burnett from wood from the 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, Burnett has now made a new "Conan Doyle Quartette": two violins, a cello, and a viola. According to the Edinburgh Evening News (Oct. 25), the quartet will debut at the Concert for Trees at the Usher Hall on Nov. 26, when the St. Patrick's Baroque Ensemble will play the quartet and Ani Batikian will play the Sherlock violin.
450. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled by the Broadhollow Theatre at the Elmont Memorial Library, Nov. 12-27 (700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont, NY 11003) (516-775-4420) <www.broadhollow.org>.
451. William Hyder's *INTRODUCING SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE ACCORDING TO DOYLE* (2011; 311 pp., \$24.00) has been published by George Vanderburgh; the book includes reprints of eight stories and an excerpt from *A STUDY IN SCARLET*, with informative introductions and explanations, and what Bill has called "biographical assumptions" that provide the reader with an imaginative account of Holmes' early life and his career that often differs from William S. Baring-Gould's proposed biography. The publisher's at Box 50, R.R. #4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.
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452. Oct 11 #5: Sherlock Holmes' 158th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 13, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.
453. The Christopher Morley Walk, led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash, will leave from the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) at 9:30 am on Thursday, followed by lunch at McSorley's at about 1:30 pm; those planning to participate are asked to get in touch with Jim (2240 15th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116) <jasdcx@yahoo.com>, and of course are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.
454. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street); the speaker will be Dr. Lisa Sanders of Yale University, technical advisor to the television series "House", which of course owes much to the Sherlock Holmes stories, including the address of his apartment (221B). The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below); tickets will not be sold at the door.
455. Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.

456. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$45.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> is the contact for a formal announcement.
457. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); \$78.00 (checks payable to Will Walsh can be sent to Carol Fish at Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919 (845-361-4320)).
458. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised.
459. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.

460. Oct 11 #6: On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; you can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> for information about dealers' tables.
461. The Beacon Society will hold their annual meeting from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing the efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. Their web-site's at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
462. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 at the New York City Bar Association (42 West 44th Street); there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks). And, of course, the usual (or perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is likely to be \$79.00 (details below) or \$89.00 after Nov. 26 or at the door.
463. For those who wish to continue partying, there are as yet no plans (firm or infirm) for sporting events at Kennedy's or other venues on Saturday evening ; stay tuned (as they say) for a further report.
464. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at a venue not yet confirmed (needless to say, the price is not confirmed either). As always, the brunch is open to all, but space is limited; Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com> will be happy to provide more information about a fine way to end a long weekend.
465. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$199.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 19. In addition, there may be some rooms available at the Yale Club (50 Vanderbilt Avenue) at a special tax-free rate of \$200.00 per night (details on both below).
466. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.
467. Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to advise about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.quikbook.com>; special rates also are available at <www.travelzoo.com/top20/82851294-890255>. You will be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and you should not forget about non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

468. Oct 10 #7: The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
469. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and <www.bsiweekend.com>. News of additional events will be found in this newsletter, and at the web-sites.
470. The 31st Annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, to be held in Dayton, Ohio, on May 18-20, has the theme "Cheetahs and Adders and Hounds, On My!"; Cathy Gill manages their mailing list (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.
471. Sherlock Crater, named in honor of Sherlock Holmes by astronaut-geologist Jack Schmitt in preparation for the Apollo 17 mission to the Moon in 1972, can be seen at Google; go to www.google.com/moon and search for [sherlock].
472. For San Franciscans: Laurie King and Les Klinger (editors) and Tony Broadbent and Jan Burke (contributors) will appear at the San Francisco Public Library (at 100 Larkin Street at Grove) on Nov. 8 at 6:00 pm to talk about (and sign) the new anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (Aug 11 #2).
473. Bill Dorn's "Sherlock Holmes Calendar" for 2012 features to actors who have played Professor Moriarty on the screen and on television; the price (postpaid) is \$17.95, but if you mention the magic word [scuttlebutt] you get a \$2.00 discount. You can see (and order) the calendar (and other offerings) at <www.me.com/billdorn/Holmesian_Films>.
474. Spiritualists in Edinburgh have opened a new church that's named in honor of Conan Doyle, according to a report in the Edinburgh Evening News (Oct. 19); formerly housed in a tenement, the church has about 150 members, and funding from a trust allowed them to move into the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre. They have a web-site at <www.edinburghspiritualists.com>.
475. Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (58 pp.) offers the usual interesting mix of articles, toasts, and poetry, including Debbie Clark's discussion of various attempts to assassinate Queen Victoria, Russell Wm. Hultgren's examination of the recordings of the Canon David Timson made for Naxos Audiobooks, and Emily Doss' winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md.; \$15.00 postpaid from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).

476. Nov 11 #1: There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York: Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will once again host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 14, at 6:00 pm at Pete's Tavern (129 East 18th Street, between Irving Place and Third Avenue); \$42.00 including tax and tip for dinner and two drinks, and details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.

477. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Irish Rogue (356 West 45th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues); \$20.00 payable by cash or check at the door. As always, the brunch is open to all, but space is limited; details about a fine way to end a long weekend are available from Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsafaye@hotmail.com>.
478. And a reminder: seasonal souvenirs or other mementos intended for various dinner packets should be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15: 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278).
479. The "Sherlock Holmes Shaped Puzzle" (Apr 10 #1) offered by Bits and Pieces (Box 4150, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025) (866-503-6395) <www.bitsandpieces.com> has been discounted to \$8.49 each for either of the two formats (300 pieces or 750 pieces) (items 45849 and 45850).
480. The White Ghost Shivers are a seven-piece band that plays (according to one reviewer) "an insane collision of ragtime, jazz, swing, bluegrass, cabaret, vaudeville, burlesque, Hostess Twinkie, caffeine, and Tilt-a-Whirl." Their web-site is at <www.whiteghostshivers.com>, and their latest CD is "Nobody Loves You Like We Do" (\$12.17); it's of Sherlockian interest because one of the tracks is "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" (which is described as "the anthem of The Baker Street Irregulars") sung by Cella Blue, who is the daughter of Sherlockian book-dealer Vinnie Brosnan. The CD (and possibly an LP) will be available in the Merchants Room at the Roosevelt Hotel during the birthday festivities in January.
481. A page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be offered at auction on Dec. 3, estimated at \$115,000-125,000; the auction will be at Ira & Larry Goldberg Auctioneers <www.goldbergcoins.com> in Los Angeles. Currently owned by David Karpeles, the page was advertised at \$22,500 by Pepper & Stern in 1994. Randall Stock has compiled an excellent census of pages from the manuscript; it's available at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com>.
482. Sean Wright has reported a delightful segment from "The Morecambe and Wise Show" broadcast on July 27, 1969, with guest Peter Cushing as King Arthur, introduced by Ernie Wise (in costume as Merlin) and with a surprise appearance by Eric Morecambe as Sherlock Holmes. And of course it's available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT6e58r3bv0>.
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483. Nov 11 #2: E.J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES (Jun 06 #2) is available translated into French; her web-site <www.ejwagner-crimehistorian.com> has details on how to order the book (which also is available in Italian, Korean, German, Russian, Japanese, Spanish, and Braille, and in a Kindle edition and as an audiobook).
484. The Sussex Courier reported (Oct. 28) on Brian Pugh's efforts to promote Crowborough as the home of Arthur Conan Doyle: Brighton and Hove Buses have named one of their buses in honor of Sir Arthur. According to the company operations and commercial manager, "about 75 per cent of our buses are dedicated to local heroes like Thomas Kemp and Dusty Springfield." That's Brian Pugh in the photograph.
485. "Sublime Sherlocks: The Great Detective's Brainy Descendants" is an interesting interactive web-site reported by Tina Rhea. Wired offers 18 candidates at <www.wired.com/underwire/2010/10/best-sherlocks-ever>, and there are some amusing surprises among them.
486. Computers make it quite easy to produce personalized books, and a personalized edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is available from Book By You <www.bookbyyou.com> for \$49.95 (hardcover) or \$29.95 (paperback); you get to select new names for Holmes, Watson, Lestrade, Irene Adler, and Mrs. Hudson, and you can create a free preview sample at the web-site.
487. James H. Bready ("The Disappearance of James Phillimore") died on Oct. 29. He served in the Army's Counterintelligence Corps in the European Theater during World War II, and in 1945 began his long career as a journalist with the Baltimore Sun; his enthusiasms were sports, Maryland's pre-Prohibition rye whiskey, and Sherlock Holmes. Jim was an early member of The Six Napoleons and served as its Gasogene in the 1950s; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1955.
488. There will be two "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., next year, on Mar. 16-18 and Nov. 2-4, and you can find out what happened this year at <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html?terms=sherlock>; information about next year's events will be available from 1048 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278).
489. "The musical begins when Sherlock Holmes and his trusty partner Dr. John H. Watson are dispatched to solve the case of the Anderson family and a missing woman," according to an article in the Jeju Weekly about the Korean musical "Sherlock Holmes", which premiered in Anyang City on July 29 and went on to play in Seoul and Jeju. I am not aware of any previous Sherlockian theatrical production, musical or otherwise, in Korea, and there have been two articles (in English) about the musical in the Jeju Weekly, whose web-site is <www.jejuweekly.com>; search for [sherlock].
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490. Nov 11 #3: Ken Ludwig's new comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" (Mar 11 #3) opened its world premiere at the Cleveland Play House on Nov. 25; it's a murder mystery set in William Gillette's home, and it's wonderfully hilarious. You can see images of the set and costumes at <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>.
491. French Connection U.S. is promoting their fashion brand with a sweepstakes contest that's tied to "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (the winner and a guest will be flown to New York for a preview of the film, and a shopping spree) <www.usa.frenchconnection.com/content/sherlock-holmes/index.htm>.
492. The Langham in London "lays claim to being instrumental in the creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most famous character, Sherlock Holmes," according to its web-site, and displays a commemorative Green Plaque (Mar 10 #3); the hotel also is offering a "Sherlock Holmes Package" celebrating the launch of the new film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (the package is available through Mar. 31). You get to stay in the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Suite and enjoy a gift from the Langham Book Butler, as well as an English breakfast <www.londonlanghamhotels.co.uk/rooms/sherlock-holmes-package.html>.
493. Dr. William R. Hanson has designed a colorful cachet for the stamp issued this year in honor of Mark Twain, who wrote "The Double-Barrelled Detective Story"; the artwork shows the mining camp in Hope Canyon in the Esmeralda region of California (where the story takes place in October 1900). \$10.00 postpaid (to U.S. addresses), and you are requested to make payment in currency or by U.S. postal money order to Dr. Hanson at 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801; for information on prices outside the U.S. contact him at <drhanson@localnet.com>.
494. The fall issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) offers Peter Accardo's report on the completion of the BSI Archives cataloguing project, editor Mike Berdan's account of his visit to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and other news. All issues of the newsletter have been posted (the latest in full color) at the Trust web-site at <www.bsitrust.org>, and copies of the current issue are available on request from Marshall S. Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <editor@bsitrust.org>.

495. William Hyder, author of *INTRODUCING SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE ACCORDING TO DOYLE* (Oct 11 #4), now has an informative web-site about the book, and other things, at <www.introducingsherlockholmes.com>.
496. J. Warren Scheideman ("Count Von und Zu Grafenstein") died on Aug. 25. He taught English and American literature at De Paul University, and then at De Paul's School for New Learning; he was a member of Hugo's Companions and The Hounds of the Baskerville of Chicago, and wrote many learned articles for Sherlockian journals in the 1970s and 1980s. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.
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497. Nov 11 #4: Sherlock Holmes is (or at least will be) one of the characters in *THE FIFTH HEART*, a book that has not yet been written by Dan Simmons. Lenny Picker has noted that Simmons blogged about it in July 2010 <www.dansimmons.com/news/message/2010_07.htm>; the blog offers an interesting look at how an author thinks about a book.
498. There are many Android Apps available for Google's Android phone, and you can explore them at <www.android-apps.com>; just search for [conan doyle] to find a number of free downloads, and a few more at modest cost.
499. Die Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft is celebrating the 125th anniversary of the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes in Beeton's Christmas Annwith a colorful calender (E12.50 plus shipping), and there's a preview at their at web-site <www.deutsche-sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de/?p=1205>; it's an interesting web-site, with lots of news about Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians in Germany.
500. Two sets of four Sherlock Holmes Marble Coasters with Sidney Paget illustrations (\$39.95 each), cut from Botticino marble imported from Verona, are again available (along with other nice Sherlockiana) from The Strand Magazine (Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012) (800-300-6652) <www.strandmag.com>.
501. "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Frozen City" is a new computer game designed for the Nintendo 3DS; it's due for release in 2012, but there are images available now at <www.gonintendo.com/?mode=viewstory&id=162111>.
502. Jim Ballinger has found Spineless Classics at Foyles in London; the company offers full-text books in four-point print on single sheets of quality paper, and with interesting silhouette artwork. Their titles include *THE LOST WORLD* and *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* (£44.99 each unframed), and you get a 20% discount through Christmas if you say the magic word [scuttlebutt]; the concept is imaginative and attractive, and you can send orders to the company at The Granery, 4 High Street Eton, Windsor, Berks. SL4 6AS, England) <www.spinelessclassics.com/voucher/scuttlebutt>.
503. "Sherlock Holmes Neveben" [In the Name of Sherlock Holmes"] is a Hungarian film now in post-production and due for release next year. There's a oneminute teaser at <www.sherlockfilm.hu>. Click on the Facebook icon at the web-site to see a poster for the film.
504. Bill Crider, who contributes a "Blog Bytes" column to Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, has noted Tony Renner's interesting blog "Pfui", which can be found at <www.louderthannecessary.blogspot.com> and will be enjoyed by fans of Rex Stout and his work; Renner is reprinting contemporary reviews of Stout's work, as well as interviews with him and reviews written by him (one of them a review of M. F. K. Fisher's *AN ALPHABET FOR GOURMETS*).
505. Al Gregory spotted a report in the Thorne and District Gazette (Oct. 8) on a one-year suspension imposed on a teacher at the Hayfield School in Auckley, in South Yorkshire, for failing to follow the school's procedure for teaching and marking English coursework; omissions included teaching only *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* to pupils and failing to cover other Sherlock Holmes short stories. The teacher was later dismissed.
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506. Nov 11 #5: *WHO WAS JACK THE RIPPER?*, by Hartley R. Nathan, is the result of his deep interest in the continuing mystery; there is discussion of Conan Doyle in the chapter on "Why Was the Ripper Not Caught?". The 88-page book costs \$18.60 postpaid (and signed on request), and you can mail checks to Hartley (Minden Gross LLP, 145 King Street West #2200, Toronto, ON M5H 4G2, Canada).
507. Bryan Ford notes the Classic Tales Podcast <www.classictales.libsyn.com>, where B. J. Harrison reads (and well) classic tales that include "The Red-Headed League" and "Playing with Fire".
508. Visitors to the historic city of York can still raise a glass at the Brigadier Gerard, discovered by Ely Liebow some years ago (Aug 95 #2); the pub is named in honor of the famous racehorse ("the only English classic winner of the present century to have lost only one race in 18 or more starts"), and the horse was named in honor of Conan Doyle's swashbuckling hero. And Al Gregory has found the Brigadier Gerard Stakes, a flat race that is run each year at Sandown Park; the event was established in 1953, as the Coronation Stakes commemorating the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and the race was renamed in 1973 in honor of the famous racehorse.
509. Raymond C. Murray first encountered forensic geology in 1973, when he was teaching geology at Rutgers University and received a request for assistance from a federal agent; he went on to co-author the first textbook (*FORENSIC GEOLOGY*) in 1975, and then alone wrote *EVIDENCE FROM THE EARTH: FORENSIC GEOLOGY AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION* (Oct 04 #3), which now has a second edition, revised and expanded and with Sherlockian cover art (Missoula: Mountain Press, 2011; 240 pp., \$16.00). It's an up-to-date review of the science, and gives due credit to Sherlock Holmes as the first forensic geowhere you'll find some Sherlockian artwork.
510. John Neville died on Nov. 19. He began his acting career in the 1950s, and performed at the Old Vic, alternating the roles of Othello and Iago with a young Richard Burton, and in films, and in 1972 emigrated to Canada to direct and act for the National Arts Centre Theatre Company; he continued to act in films such as "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" and on television as "the well manicured man" in "The X-Files". He played Sherlock Holmes in film "A Study in Terror" (1965), on stage in the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of "Sherlock Holmes" in New York (1974) and in a Canadian production of the play (1975), and on radio in "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca" (1978).
511. "Sherlock Holmes and the Alien Abduction" is a new short story by Phillip Duke, available as an Amazon Kindle ebook (\$0.99); Kindle software can be downloaded without charge to desktops and other devices in addition to the Kindle, and Amazon offers a free sample from the story.
512. Watson's Tin Box will host the fifth "Scintillation of Scions" at the Comfort Suites at Laurel Lakes, Md., on June 9, 2012, the intent is to bring together members of mid-Atlantic (and east-coast) Sherlockian societies for "an afternoon of fun, scholarship, and social time." It's an entertaining gathering, and additional information is available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <www.scintillation.org>.
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513. Nov 11 #6: "A campaign is underway to turn one of London's most iconic but underwhelming roads into a thriving business quarter," according to a report in the Hampstead & Highgate Express (Sept. 18). The Portman Estate, hoping to turn the area into a Business Improvement District, wants to include Baker Street between Marylebone Road and Oxford Street as well as many surrounding roads. But the Baker Street BID is in the early stages: "consultation with local businesses is earmarked for early 2013.
514. "Pendergast thinks like Sherlock Holmes, fights like James Bond, and looks like Andy Warhol," Will Boisvert reported in a review of *THE WHEEL OF DARKNESS* (2007), perhaps the first time Holmes, Bond, and Warhol have appeared in the same sentence. FBI special agent Aloysius Xingu L. Pendergast will be found in a series of books written by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, who have an interesting web-site at <www.prestonchild.com>.

515. Michael Cox's *A STUDY IN CELLULOID: A PRODUCER'S ACCOUNT OF JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES*, first published by Rupert Books (May 00 #4), has been reissued (Bloomington: Gasogene Books, 2011; 222 pp., \$28.95), and it's grand that the book's again in print. Cox was the producer of the Granada series from 1984 to 1991, and he offers insightful discussion of the entire series and a new "re-introduction" to the book, which includes a touching account of the memorial service for Jeremy Brett in 1995, some of Dame Jean Conan Doyle's comments on the series, and much else of interest. Those who own the first edition value it highly: if they have it, they keep it, and there are very few copies available on the used-book market, and at three-figure prices. Recommended.
516. The 20th and final chapter of Stephen Gaspar's pastiche "Cold Hearted Murder" is now available at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com>, along with the earlier chapters (he started posting the pastiche in January).
517. 4-D films are a relatively new phenomenon; they combine 3-D film with special effects in the theater, and tend to be shown in venues such as amusement and theme parks (although the films also can be screened without the special effects in normal theaters). "Sherlock Holmes 4D" is an 11-minute "comedy mystery adventure" being produced by Red Star 4D of Sheffield, England, authorized by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd., according to Jon Lellenberg. There's a one-minute teaser available at <www.sherlockholmes4d.com>. No word yet as to when or where the film can be seen (and experienced).
518. Steve Emecz reports that MX Publishing will follow up on their "Great Sherlock Holmes Debate" (Sep 11 #5) with a monthly light discussion, the first one being scheduled on Dec. 14 from 8:00 to 10:00 pm GMT, open to all; you can register at <www3.gotomeeting.com/register/592595902>.
519. Some truly unusual Conan Doyle material will be included in a sale at Wellers Auctioneers on Dec. 3 <www.wellersthesurreyauction.com/Film.html>: lot 752 (estimated at £100-£150) is described in the catalogue as "a group of ladies bed jackets and undergarments of silk and cotton with lace and broderie anglaise, formerly the property of Lady Jean Conan Doyle of Windlesham, Crowborough, some bearing name tape 'Conan-Doyle', comprising: seven long bodices/nightdresses, three pairs of separate leg drawstring bloomers, two petticoats, and three bed jackets."
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520. Nov 11 #7: "'Meow'trage at Algonquin" was the headline on a story in the N.Y. Post on Nov. 23 about Matilda III, the latest of the Algonquin Hotel's free-ranging cats: the Department of Health told the hotel that live animals are not allowed in food-service establishments unless a patron needs a service dog; the Algonquin, which serves food in the lobby, has been forced to end a tradition that began in 1932. The Algonquin will close on Jan. 1 for four months for a \$15-million renovation.
521. Daniel Corey's MORIARTY comic-book mini-series from Image (Jul 11 #1) has completed its first four-issue story ("The Dark Chamber"). also now available as a trade paperback (\$14.99), and has begun a second story ("The Lazarus Tree"); his media company is DangerKatt, and you can see some of his work at his web-site <www.professorjamesmoriarty.com>.
522. The late Peter Woods' article on "The Lost Special" (an excellent detailed investigation of Conan Doyle's Apocryphal story) is one of the featured articles in the fall issue of Canadian Holmes (published by The Bootmakers of Toronto for its members); a subscription's included with membership (\$35.00 a year). TDC Postal Station Box 1157, 77 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5K 1P2, Canada <www.sherlockian.net/bootmakers>.
523. "Sherlock Holmes: Voices of the Celts" is a new play that presents Holmes and Watson solving a mystery that involves the Celtic Sacred Book of Kells, "just in time for the Winter Solstice and Christmas," at the Walnut Street Theatre Studio 5 from Dec. 2 to Dec. 11; 825 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (609-703-3906) <midsummernightplayers@comcast.net>.
524. Francie LeVillard is the great-granddaughter of the famous French detective who consulted with Sherlock Holmes (as Holmes reported in "The Sign of the Four"), and is a detective in her own right, on the Monterey Peninsula, and appears in mysteries written by Tony Seton and available as on-line serials at <www.montereymystery.com>.
525. Warner Bros. is hard at work publicizing "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (and will be working even hard in December, when the film will open in Hong Kong on Dec. 15, and then in the U.S. and the U.K. on Dec. 16. And of course there are all sorts of colorful posters available on the Internet, including one from Hong Kong that shows Gladstone (the dog who lives at 221B Baker Street); needless to say, it looks much better in a larger size and in full color, and you can see it at <www.comicbookmovie.com/fansites/Wolvie09/news/?a=50072>.
526. There's also pleasant news about the BBC television series "Sherlock" that stars Benedict Cumberbatch: PBS-TV has announced that the second season's three new episodes will air in the U.S. beginning on May 6. Sorry: as far as I know, the BBC has not yet announced an air date for the U.K.
527. Peter C. Shumway's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND 'THE KISS OF DEATH' was published by BookSurge in 2005, and a second, slightly revised edition is available online at <www.epix.net/~pshumway/kod.htm>; the pastiche has Holmes and Watson investigating a series of bizarre murders committed by an evil and vindictive magician.
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528. Nov 11 #8: Peter Calamai delivered the annual Cameron Hollyer Lecture (on "The Real World of Sherlock Holmes"), at the Toronto Public Library last year, and his remarks were published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. The web-site's at <www.acdfriends.org>; or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and the minimum donation (which includes three issues of their newsletter "Through the Magic Door) is \$25.00. This year's lecture by Tom Ue ("Sherlock Holmes and Shakespeare") will be sent to members of the Friends next year. A few copies of past lectures (Steven Rothman on Christopher Morley in 2008 and Michael Dirda on Conan Doyle as an Essayist and Journalist in 2009) are available at \$10.00 each.
529. THE PUNISHMENT OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Bob Burr and Philip K. Jones (London: MX Publishing, 2011; 292 pp., £11.99/£12.99/\$18.95), is an astonishing anthology of Sherlockian humor, some of it Sherlockian directly and some by association only, including puns, jokes, spoonerisms, feghoots, shaggy dog stories, and the occasional feghoot; the majority of them were written or adapted by Burr, and all have been catalogued by Jones in his ever-expanding data base. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.com>.
530. Also from MX Publishing: Charlie Roxburgh's THE CASE OF THE RUSSIAN CHESSBOARD (2011; 108 pp., £6.99/£7.99/\$9.95); the pastiche involves Holmes and Watson in the world of Russian radicals, idealists, and extremists in London, and it's a world full of treachery and conspiracies.
531. And: Thomas Bruce Wheeler's THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 391 pp., (£13.99/£17.00/\$22.95) is a greatly enhanced version of his THE NEW FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON (Jun 09 #5); there are discussions of each story, and the London locations mentioned in them, and listings of locations near each underground and railway station and along each underground line, plus a few walking tours. The enhancement comes with the e-book edition, which costs \$9.00 to \$10.00 and will run on desktops, tablets, phones, and what-not; it is an impressive introduction (for me, at least) to what can be done with modern technology: clicking on geographical coordinates in the book brings up Google maps and allows you to maneuver through 360-degree photographic street views.

532. And: Tracy Revels' *SHADOWBLOOD: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2011; 193 pp., £10.99/£12.99/\$19.95) is a sequel to her *SHADOWFALL* (Oct 11 #2); Holmes and Watson are again in the world of wizards and wizardry, and in Florida, this time in pursuit of villains who in turn are in hot pursuit of the legendary Fountain of Youth.
533. Ryan Jacobson and Deb Mercier have taken an interesting approach to the Canon in their *CAN YOU SURVIVE: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Minneapolis: Lake 7 Creative, 2011; 157 pp., \$8.95), which is written for readers aged 9 to 13; it's a "choose your path" book that combines three of the stories and offers readers opportunities to decide how to proceed. Their web-site's at <www.lake7creative.com>.
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534. Dec 11 #1: One does hear of Sherlock everywhere: Paul Martin reports that Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, and the staff of the Brookings Public Library in South Dakota are collaborating on a four-month "A Life Explored" program on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Brookings. Go to <www.brookingslibrary.org> and click on "Newsletter" for more information.
535. The official web-site for Frogwares' computer game "The Testament of Sherlock Holmes" (Jun 10 #5) is now live at <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com>; click on "Collection" to review five earlier games from Frogwares.
536. Further to the report (Oct 11 #4) about the "Sherlock" violin made by Steve Burnett from wood from the 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, musicians from the Royal Scottish National Orchestra performed on his new "Conan Doyle Quartette" (two violins, a cello, and a viola) at a concert that was broadcast on BBC-1's "The One Show" on Nov. 2; Burnett has a web-site at <www.burnettviolins.co.uk>, where you can listen to the musicians play a piece by Mendelssohn. The web-site also offers images of his instruments, and audio and video of his "Sherlock" violin in performance.
537. Karen Ellery found Rikki Little's grotesque "Custom Zombie" artwork at his web-site at <www.etsy.com/shop/customzombie>; search for [sherlock] to see his "Sherlock Bones" and "Sherlock Holmes" prints. Little also does custom portraits for people who want to see what they'd look like as zombies.
538. Alan Sues died on Dec. 1. He began his acting career on stage and continued in vaudeville, and then appeared in films and on television, where he was best known for his comic roles on the long-running series "Rowan & Martin's Laugh In". Sues also played Moriarty in a touring company in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1976 with Robert Stephens as Holmes in Toronto and with Leonard Nimoy in Detroit, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Denver, and Chicago. Lee Gibson has reported that he saw one performance in Chicago in which Nimoy and Sues exchanged roles: Sues was "a very fine Holmes" and Nimoy "a better Moriarty than he was a Holmes."
539. *THE DEAD WITNESS*, edited by Michael Sims (New York: Walker & Company, 2011; 576 pp., \$20.00), is aptly subtitled "a connoisseur's collection of Victorian detective stories," and he offers an insightful introduction and an excellent selection that includes old favorites (the first two chapters of *A STUDY IN SCARLET*), familiar authors such as Poe and Dickens, and many stories that will be new to many if not most readers.
540. Criminal Element is community web-site "featuring daily content for fans of the crime and mystery genres in all of their forms," and of course there's frequent Sherlockian content; you can sample their Sherlockian content at <www.criminalelement.com/features/series/sherlockiana?WTmc_id=undefined>, where you'll find "Sherlock Season 2 Scenes" (clips from the new mini-series), Lyndsay Faye's "Testosterone and a Powder Keg of Glitter" (her review of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows"), Cathy Zhu Chen's "Holmes Coping with Alzheimers Comedy Sketch: Depressing?" (her comments on a skit "That Mitchell and Webb Look"), and much more.
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541. Dec 11 #2: Kim Newman describes his *PROFESSOR MORIARTY: THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES* (London: Titan Books, 2011; 488 pp., \$14.95) as a "novel disguised as a collection," and the book is a fine demonstration of the fact that villains continue to attract excellent writers; the story is told by Col. Moran (some chapters are reprints, and some are new), and the book is full of interesting characters, some borrowed from other authors. It's all grand fun, and recommended.
542. And Newman's *ANNO DRACULA* (London: Titan Books, 2011; 547 pp., \$14.95) is an expanded new edition of his earlier imaginative novel (Dec 92 #3); it's an alternate-universe novel, with considerable cross-over: Queen Victoria has married Vlad Tepes, who is ruling as Prince Consort and as Lord Protector, and Mycroft Holmes is far more involved in a resistance movement than his brother. The new material includes annotations, an alternate ending, and an excerpt from Newman's movie script. *ANNO DRACULA* was the first of a series, and Titan will be publishing expanded new editions of the next two titles, and a brand new fourth title.
543. Newman has an excellent web-site at <www.johnnyalucard.com>, and his essay on "Everything You Need to Know about Professor Moriarty" is available at <www.tinyurl.com/89oao4y>.
544. The Pawky Humorists, one of the more unusual of the Sherlockian societies, was founded by Peter G. Ashman in 1974, revived by Norman M. Davis in 1989, was revived again by Linda Crane this year in an electronic version to be found at Facebook; just go to <www.facebook.com> and search for [pawky humorists].
545. Reported: Barbara Roden's *THE THAMES HORROR AND OTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* is a new eBook published by the Ash-Tress Press; a collection of four stories, one of them new and the others reprints (\$5.99 for Kindle, Nook, etc.) <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/ebooks.htm>
546. Digiview Entertainment has issued CDs of public-domain fiction, including (in 2006) *CASE OF IDENTITY* and *THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE*, nicely read by James Hadley; they're available inexpensively here and there on the Internet.
547. John Linsenmeyer offers a discovery for anyone who's investigation forensic or medico-legal aspects of the Canon: important textbooks written by Alfred Swaine Taylor (1806-1880), who has been called the father of British forensic medicine, are readily available (free) at <www.books.google.com>. Just search for [alfred swaine taylor].
548. The Wick Theatre Company will perform Tony Brownings' new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on Jan. 11-14 at the Barn Theatre (Southwick Street, Southwick, West Sussex BN42 4RE) <www.wicktheatre.co.uk>.
549. *THE DRAGON TURN* (Toronto: Tundra, 2011; 220 pp., \$19.95) is the fifth book in Shane Peacock's series about "the boy Sherlock Holmes" (still on his own in London and learning how to be a detective, with the help of his friends Irene Doyle and Beatrice Leckie, and his mentor Sigerson Bell); the series is well written (and attractively produced by Tundra), and Peacock's web-site is at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.
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550. Dec 11 #3: The Feb. 2012 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will be found on newsstands during the birthday celebrations, has a Sherlockian cover photograph by Kurt Paris, a pastiche ("Shikari") by James Lincoln Warren, a sonnet ("Immortal Londoners") by Donald A. Yates. and a Sherlockian cartoon by Bob Schochet. You can see some of Schochet's non-S'ian work at <www.dialanartist.com/portfoliolist.htm?it=4&ar=176>.
551. Reported: a 25th anniversary edition of *SCARLET IN GASLIGHT*, the comic-book series and graphic novel written by Martin Powell and illustrated by Seppo Makinen (May 88 #5), from CreateSpace (\$9.99); Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula.

552. SPOT THE PLOT, by J. Patrick Lewis (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2009; 28 pp., \$15.99), is an amusing "riddle book of book riddles" with Sherlockian artwork by Lynn Munsinger on the cover and on inside pages.
553. Some film costumes are worth more than others: Basil Rathbone's wool cape overcoat used in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" sold for \$61,500 when Debbie Reynolds' collection of movie memorabilia was sold at auction (Jun 11 #6), but a brown shirt that was used by Patrick Macnee in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), estimated at £30.00-50.00 by Cameo Auctioneers in a sale on Dec. 6, went unsold.
554. John Baesch has reported an attractive deerstalker in a catalog from the J. Peterman Company (888-647-2555) <www.jpeterman.com>; it's item 2914 and costs \$128. The catalog notes that "This is not the hat of an urban detective. But don't blame Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It was the famed illustrator Sidney Paget who was a fan of the stylish 'fore and aft,' and sketched Sherlock in it for the Strand Magazine in 1881. It just sort of fit."
555. Deb Weissler, a fervent Sherlockian miniaturist (Jul 09 #6 and Jan 10 #5), has a colorful article about her Sherlockian room box in the October issue of Dolls House and Miniature Scene; you can see photographs of her excellent work at <www.tinuurl.com/7eoevgu>.
556. Arthur Twidle is perhaps best known for his illustrations of the Sherlock Holmes stories in The Strand Magazine, but he was a prolific artist; some of his non-Sherlockian art will be available at Leland Little Auction & Estate Sales on Jan. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/73g2vrq>.
557. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be produced at the Long Beach Playhouse, Feb. 25 to Mar. 24; 5021 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804 (562-494-1014) <www.lbplayhouse.org>.
558. Willis Frick reports that Cox has shut down Sherlocktron (along with everyone else's Personal WebSpace), explaining that declining usage of the service "has highlighted the need to focus our resources on other priorities, such as increasing our Internet speeds and providing new services." Willis quickly found a new host <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/Sherlocktron.html>.

559. Dec 11 #4: The Edinburgh Scotsman has reported (Dec. 22) that the family of Dr. Joseph Bell has donated all of his papers, and other material, to the Royal College of Surgeons; one item in the collection is the letter to Bell from Conan Doyle in which he wrote "It is most certainly to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes." The collection is part of an exhibition at the Surgeons' Hall Museum, and planning is underway for a special "Conan Doyle Day" in the New Year.
560. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-12.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, and an opportunity to see a colorful rendition of one of Jim Vogelsang's "Olmes 'n Watso" Christmas cards.
561. The modern version of The Strand Magazine, published by Andrew Gulli, continues to offer interesting (and occasionally Sherlockian) fiction and reviews ; the latest issue is #35 (\$6.95) and includes Lyndsay Faye's new pastiche "The Adventure of the Vintner's Codex" (a new version of the case of Vamerry, the wine merchant).
562. A Wall Street Journal blog, kindly forwarded by Bob Katz, noted on Dec. 18 that wide-release franchise films failed to match what their previous installments earned, continuing a domestic box-office slump; the highest boxoffice receipts went to "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows", which grossed \$39.6 million over the three-day weekend. "Sherlock Holmes" grossed \$62.3 million on a "magical" weekend in 2009 when the Christmas holiday fell on a Friday and children were already out of school, according Dan Fellman, Warner Bros.' president of domestic distribution, and he was pleased with the reception of the sequel, which cost \$125 million and attracted a 59% male audience.
563. <www.boxofficemojo.com> is a fine web-site for tracking how movies do (and have done) at the box office. As of Dec. 29, the new film had grossed \$159 million world-wide. The web-site offers daily and weekly figures only for domestic gross: the first film in the franchise grossed \$146.6 million in the first two weeks, and the second film grossed \$110 million.
564. WaterTower Music has issued the soundtrack of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" as a CD (\$9.99) and as an MP3 download (\$4.99). According to the Internet Movie Data Base, people who purchase the 18-track album will also be able to download three free additional tracks from the film, along with a video chronicling composer Hans Zimmer's trip to Slovakia to record the music of the Roma people.
565. And "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Good Music" is a blog by Anastasia Tsioulcas at <www.npr.org/blogs/deceptivecadence> [scroll down to the title of the piece]; she praises Zimmer's "clever score" and is pleased that for once "it's not just the villain who loves classical music."
566. National Public Radio <www.npr.org> has much of interest: you can listen to interviews on programs such as "All Things Considered" (Anthony Horowitz, Les Klinger, and Laurie King on Dec. 19), "Morning Edition" (Michael Sims on Dec. 22) and read blogs. Search for [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle], and don't neglect older material in the archives.

567. Dec 11 #5: M. Diane Vogt's THE LITTLE BOOK OF BATHROOM CRIME PUZZLES (New York: MJF Books, 2005) is Sherlockian only for a small picture of a rubber duckie in Sherlockian costume on the front cover of the book, similar (but not identical) to the real rubber duckie in Sherlockian costume that was briefly in shops a few years ago. You can see the front cover of the book at Amazon, and elsewhere on the Internet images of the real rubber duckie (which seems not to be available for purchase anywhere).
568. For completists: Sherlockian artwork on the cover of David Levinson Wilk's REALLY CLEVER CROSSWORDS (New York: Puzzlewright Press, 2004; 95 pp., \$8.95). The puzzles are full of wordplay, and the collection is described at Amazon as an "official MENSA puzzle book."
569. Anthony Horowitz's new pastiche THE HOUSE OF SILK (London: Orion Books, 2011; 304 pp., £18.99) (New York: Mulholland Books, 2011; 294 pp., \$27.99) has been reviewed widely and promoted heavily, and he tells an interesting story that involves Holmes and Watson in two intersecting mysteries and a "dire conspiracy that threatens to tear apart the very fabric of society." The publisher has described the book as the first Sherlock Holmes novel to be authorized by the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. (the heirs of Dame Jean Conan Doyle), but of course it isn't. Horowitz is the creator of the television series "Foyle's War" and the author of the "Alex Rider" children's series, and his web-site's at <www.anthonhorowitz.com>.
570. Spotted at eBay: a publicity still from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) signed by Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce; the auction ends on Jan 3, and the opening bid is \$6,000. It will be interesting, of course, to see if anyone bids.
571. Mary Losure's THE FAIRY RING: ELSIE AND FRANCES FOOL THE WORLD (Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2012; 181 pp., \$16.99) is an interesting approach to the story of the Cottingley fairies: the book is written for children ages 10 and up, and it's carefully researched and tells the story of Elsie, Frances, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle well.
572. The Long Beach Shakespeare Company performed a reading of "The Blue Carbuncle" on Dec. 22, with Richard MacPherson as Holmes, and (thanks to the Internet) you can listen to a web-cast at <www.lbshakespeare.org/audio.php>.
573. "It is a truth universally acknowledged," Michael Dirda suggested, "that a restless reader in possession of a quiet evening must be in want of a mystery." That's the opening of his review in the Washington Post (Dec. 8) of P. D. James' new DEATH COMES TO PEMBERLEY, a mystery devised as a sequel to Jane Austen's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, and all of Jane Austen's fans will know how appropriate his language is.

574. Detective novelist N. Narasimhaliah died on Dec. 25. He had written more than 550 detective novels, and according to stories in the Indian press he often said that while people described him as the Sherlock Holmes of Kannada, "they might have wanted to call me Arthur Conan Doyle."
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575. Dec 11 #6: The second season of the television series "Sherlock" that stars Benedict Cumberbatch will begin on the BBC beginning on Jan. 1, and on PBS-TV on May 6, but people outside Britain don't have to wait that long to see the series if you can play region 2 DVDs: the British set will be released on Mar. 5 (£12.99), according to <www.amazon.co.uk>. There is a lot of information about "Sherlock" at <www.sherlockology.com>; the folks who maintain Sherlockology describe it as "a fan-site dedicated to the BBC drama Sherlock."
576. The Daily Telegraph reported (Dec. 30) that the first series has been sold to 180 countries, and provided a link <www.tinyurl.com/6q48eux> that allows you to watch a 3-minute video with Holmes and Watson speaking fluently in Italian, Russian, Spanish, and French.
577. It has been about 40 years since this newsletter was founded as quite informal "information sheets" mailed to John Bennett Shaw by way of sharing Sherlockian and Doylean gossip with him (the "about" being due to the fact that the earliest pages were not dated). The gossip was of course written on what some now blithely call a "steam typewriter" at a time when postage cost 8c an ounce, and the paragraphs were full of arcane abbreviations that John had no difficulty in understanding.
578. Soon there were other readers, and eventually actual subscribers, and then a more formal name, and the manual typewriter was succeeded by an electric and in March 1985 by a computer. Those who want more history are welcome to read the opening page at <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/scuttle.htm>.
579. Which of course brings us to the Internet, which in the early days was managed for the academic community by the National Science Foundation, which imposed on users a strict "acceptable use policy" intended to prevent commercial use of the Internet; somewhere in my archives there's a copy of the letter I wrote to the NSF asking if reports of things offered for sale by others was acceptable, and a reply confirming that the newsletter was not in violation of the rules.
580. Of course now the newsletter is full of URLs and a new jargon. And there are no doubt many people who are quite happy to read all of the gossip in bits and bytes. Certainly there are fewer people now who actually pay for a subscription: there were more than 300 subscribers to the newsletter in 1995 (when subscribers in the U.S. paid \$8.90 a year), and fewer than 150 now.
581. How times change. I acquired my first videocassette a few years after the information sheets were launched, and my first VCR a few years later (the reason for that sequence being part of my occasional lecture on Sherlockian pornography). Now there are DVDs and streaming audio and video on the Internet, and of course electronic books and stories that are available only in that format, which makes things interesting for people who collect first printings of first editions. How do you collect first editions of e-books? What will book collectors be collecting 40 years from now?

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Jan 12 #1:

1. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 158th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 11 to Jan. 15. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's).
 2. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Dr. Lisa Sanders, author of a "Diagnosis" column for the N.Y. Times and the technical advisor for the television series "House, M.D."; the title of her talk was "Is Holmes Crazy As a Fox, or Just Plain Crazy?", and you will be able to read her paper in the next issue of The Baker Street Journal.
 3. The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and featured Donny Zaldin and Hartley Nathan in a Sherlockian "Carnac the Magnificent" skit and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) in a Sherlockian tribute to the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan Whimsey award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber) for the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year; the winner (Karen Murdock, author of "Do You Write Like Arthur Conan Doyle?") received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
 4. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, with Les Klinger offering the preprandial first toast to Connie Kean as The Woman. The dinner's theme was "His Last Bow" (in celebration of the centenary of the beginning of Holmes' involvement in the case), and it featured the usual toasts and traditions, as well as papers and tributes and a hilarious "dramatic homage" by Paul Singleton and Scott Monty to the BSI's 2000 Year Old Man.
 5. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented the BSI Trust's first Benefactor's Medal to Glen Miranker, an editor's medal to Mary Ann Bradley for her work on the 2011 Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual (a tribute to Lenore Glen Offord), and a Two-Shilling Award to Henry Boote (for maintaining the BSI musical tradition launched by Harvey Officer in the 1940s and continued by Jim and Bruce Montgomery). And this year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures were presented to Mark Samuel Schwartz ("Thucydides"), Phil Bergem ("Birdy Edwards"), Helen Dorey ("Helen Stoner"), Peter Accardo ("Thorncroft Huxtable"), Akane Higashiyama ("Baritsu"), Don Hobbs ("Inspector Lestrade"), Donny Zaldin ("John Hector McFarlane"), and Mary Ann Bradley ("Mary Morstan").
 6. "Jewels in the Canon" was the theme of the Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the entertainment included toasts, old songs with new Sherlockian lyrics, skits, door prizes, a raffle, an auction, and a "Questionable Crossword" quiz that required punned answers in a "yell it out if you know it" format.
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7. Jan 12 #2: Some of the more fervent (or possibly hard core) Sherlockians have been known to gather after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots, and it has been reported that this year was no exception.
 8. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. And The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing someone who introduces young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to William S. Dorn; the society has an excellent web-site <www.beaconsociety.com> where you can read excerpts from Bill's "Study Guide to Sherlock Holmes".
 9. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; the entertainment included a Sherlockian "Gallagher & Shean" duet performed by James Saunders and Henry Boote. Sonia Fetherston was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate accompanied by a check) for the best contribution to The Baker Street

- Journal last year (her article on "I Met Harry Murcher"). And the Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets for Maggie Schpak's handsome replica Lady Frances Carfax's antique Spanish jewellery, and an auction of literary and artistic donations to the Fund.
10. The principal Saturday-evening event was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at Kennedy's Irish Pub, and then on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant.
 11. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 11, 2013. And the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 19, 2013.
 12. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers.
 13. You can also subscribe at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSI, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities. And in the meantime, you can read Scott Monty's reports on the birthday festivities at his blog at <www.bakerstreetblog.com>.
 14. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2012 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 have received Irregular Shillings).
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15. Jan 12 #3: Plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' running of The Silver Blaze will return to Saratoga Springs Race Track in upstate New York on Aug. 4; it will be a weekend gathering, and details will be available soon from Lou and Candace Lewis (2 Lookerman Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) (845-471-0296) <www.silverblazenyny.homestead.com>.
 16. Plan farther ahead: registration is now open for the BSI's weekend conference in Los Angeles on Aug. 30-Sept. 3. "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" will be held at UCLA and will feature actors, producers, and directors, as well as presentations on screenwriting, casting, costuming, lighting, and sound. And screening of several rare and recently-restored films. Details at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/losangeles2012.html>.
 17. Alice Wright posted to the "Letters of Mary" mailing list noting an interesting post to the Earth Observing System blog at <www.tinyurl.com/7zx7oq6> by Eos Chater about what it was like teaching Benedict Cumberbatch how to portray Holmes as a violin player. She performs in the Bond String Quartet <www.bondmusic.net>.
 18. If you'd like to add Esperanto to your collection of Sherlock Holmes stories in translation, Don Hobbs has found LA PLANOJ DE BRUCE PARTINGTON (36 pp., €5.00 from Books on Demand GmbH at <www.amazon.de>.
 19. Don also has some nice news for those who want a translation in Piemontese (a language of the Piedmont region in northwest Italy): SHERLOCK HOLMES: EL MASTIN DIJ BASKERVILLE is available from <www.libreriauniversitaria.it> for €15.00; search for [9788889768389]. The number of languages for Canonical translations is now 90.
 20. Willis Frick continues to add material to Sherlocktron, which can be found at <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/Sherlocktron.html>, the latest being Phil Bergem's checklists of "Sherlock Holmes (and Holmes Related) Film and Television Programs" and "Non-Sherlockian Conan Doyle Films and Television Programs".
 21. "Felted Soap Sherlock Holmes" is handcrafted by Zoe Djukic at Sofino <www.etsy.com/shop/sofino>; it's a 4-ounce bar of sage and lemongrass soap encased in soft Merino wool (and you can reuse the pouch when the soap's gone); \$18.00 plus shipping. The folks at Criminal Element suggest that "perhaps this fun, woolly Sherlock will wash away your iniquities."
 22. The Beacon Society has announced a Mar. 1 deadline for teachers, librarians, Sherlockian literary societies, and others apply for a Jan Stauber Grant, which funds (up to \$250) development of a project that will introduce young people to the Canon. The application form, guidelines, and additional details are available at the society's web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
 23. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a delightful parody that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007, and it will be produced by the New Jersey Repertory Company from Apr. 19 to May 20; 179 Broadway, Long Branch, NJ 07740 (732-229-3166) <www.njrep.org>.
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24. Jan 12 #4: Don Christian spotted a story on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" (Jan. 2) that might be of interest to those who recall that Sherlock Holmes owned a Stradivarius: 17 blindfolded expert violinists were asked to identify whether an excerpt from Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major was played on a Strad or on a modern violin. Only three of the experts got it right. You can listen to the story, and take the test yourself, at <www.tinyurl.com/75hhehb>.
 25. Ronald Searle died on Dec. 30. He was a well-known cartoonist, caricaturist, and cover artist for newspapers and magazines in Britain, France, and the United States. Most famous, perhaps, for creating "The Belles of St. Trinian's" and "Molesworth", Searle also drew the sitting room at 221B Baker Street for the catalog of the Abbey House exhibition in 1951, reprinted in Punch (June 20, 1951); other Sherlockian work included an illustration in Punch (July 6, 1953) and a cartoon in The New Yorker (Dec. 16, 1991).
 26. The publicity still from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) signed by Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce that was offered at eBay with an opening bid of \$6,000 (Dec 11 #5) went unsold when no one entered a bid.
 27. Nice news for friends of Matilda (described by the N.Y. Times as the "Algonquin's Roaming Diva Cat"): after the Department of Health expressed concern about a live animal that isn't a service dog being present in a foodservice establishment (Nov 11 #7), the Algonquin has installed an electric fence that will ensure that Matilda stays in a safe section of the lobby. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/89sswdz>.
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28. Jan 12 #5: Big Finish continues to issue excellent Sherlockian audio, the latest being THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, dramatized by Richard Dinnick and starring Nicholas Briggs as Holmes and Richard Earl as Watson, on two CDs (\$23.91) and as a download (\$12.99); PO Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SE6 3TF, England) <www.bigfinish.com>. It's a full-cast recording, with featurette interviews with cast and crew.
 29. Briggs and Earl also star in Big Finish recordings of THE FINAL PROBLEM AND THE EMPTY HOUSE, in George Mann's interesting pastiche THE REIFICATION OF HANS GERBER, and Brian Clemens 1988 play HOLMES AND THE RIPPER, each on two CDs and as downloads (same prices). Other similar sets available from Big Finish include their earlier recordings (Feb 10 #6) of Roger Llewellyn in David Stuart Davies' plays SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LAST ACT (1999) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEATH AND LIFE (2008). They're all well done, and there are more to come (check their web-site).
 30. Laurie R. King has reported on her Facebook page that the next Mary Russell novel (GAME OF SHADOWS) will be published in September. It's all about Fez (in Morocco), and she has noted that she had its title, which is central to the theme of the novel, long before she heard of the new Robert Downey Jr. movie, and she sees no reason to change her title.

31. Harvey Mackie's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Jewel Box Theatre, Mar. 1-25. 3700 North Walker Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73188 (405-521-1786) <www.jewelboxtheatre.org>.
 32. Friends of the late Bill Rabe will recall the "List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse, and General Uselessness" that he launched in 1976. Lake Superior State University in Michigan continues the tradition, and there was a fine story about this year's list, with mention of Bill, on "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio on Jan. 1. You can listen to (and read) the story at <www.tinyurl.com/8ymo38m>. Thanks to Jon Lellenberg for noting the report.
 33. Jonathan Cecil died on Sept. 22, 2011. He began his acting career in cabaret at Oxford with Dudley Moore and Alan Bennett, made his television debut in 1964, and went on to a long career, also acting on stage and screen and specializing in comic roles. He also was the Honeymoon Groom in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), but in the "naked honeymooner" segment that was cut from the film before it was released.
 34. Ben Stephenson, controller of drama for the BBC refused earlier this month to confirm that there would be more than two seasons of the BBC's mini-series "Sherlock", and co-creator Steven Moffat told BBC News that there was ""no guarantee we'll be bringing him back." But as soon as the "Reichenbach" episode aired Moffat told fans "Yes, of course there's going to be a third series--it was commissioned at the same time as the second. Gotcha!"
 35. Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975); the index is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).
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36. Jan 12 #6: "What Scott Learned" was the headline on a story in the Washington Post on Jan. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/6u3wtz2>, about Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole. One of the photographs with the story shows Scott writing in his journal in a wooden hut at Cape Evans, with shelves of books behind him, and two books on his bed. One of the books he took with him to the Antarctic was Conan Doyle's THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, and it's still there, preserved as the southernmost copy of a book written by Sir Arthur.
 37. Anglofile, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment and formerly available by mail, now is a blog by Leslie King, and you can read her latest news at <anglofileplus.livejournal.com/9043.html>; she offers early reports on programs to come on PBS-TV and on BBC America.
 38. Sarah Montague reports from time to time on Sherlockian affairs for WNYC-FM (New York), and this year she has honored Sherlock Holmes' birthday with a story about A STUDY IN SHERLOCK, the anthology edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger; she interviewed the editors and some of the contributors (including Neil Gaiman and S. J. Rozann), and you can hear her broadcast at <www.tinyurl.com/7sv7p2w>.
 39. News from Don Izban: the Colonel Sebastian Moran Secret Gun Club will hold its quadrennial "Hunt for the Mongoose Named Moriarty" in Chicago on Feb. 29 (the event takes place only during Leap Years); contact Don (1812 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 06068) (847-292-1270) for more information.
 40. Compliments to eagle-eyed Nick Utechin, whose letter to The Times (Jan. 19) had the headline "If One Is Paying Careful Attention, Inside One Sherlock Holmes One May Well Find...Another Sherlock Holmes"; Nick was grateful to Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss for their choice of the actor who played the perturbed gentleman in the Diogenes Club in "The Reichenbach Fall" (that's the third episode of the new "Sherlock" mini-series). The actor was Douglas Wilmer, who has played Holmes many times, and has just celebrated his 92nd birthday.
 41. The Woodland Opera House Theatre Company is performing Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" through Feb. 12. 340 Second Street, Woodland, CA 95695 (530-666-9617) <www.woodlandoperahouse.org>
 42. The Vigilante Theatre Company is performing Bruce Hurlbut's new play "House Arrest: The Curious Events Surrounding the Retirement of Sherlock Holmes" on tour in Montana, with a stop at Quinns Hot Springs Resort in Paradise on Feb. 11-12; their web-site's at <www.vigilantetheatrecompany.com>.
 43. The Daily Telegraph reported (Jan. 13) that the one-bedroom flat just above Speedy's on North Gower Street in London is available for rent for £300 per week. The building is used for exterior shots for the BBC mini-series that stars Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman (interiors scenes are filmed elsewhere). The story noted that the estate agent's listing does not mention whether living in the flat will "give you preternatural observational powers, a doting landlady, or a network of homeless friends." The agent's listing at <www.mchughandco.com/Lettings/Letting.aspx#&&s=0> may still be viewed (if the flat has not already been taken).
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44. Jan 12 #7: The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, which include Michael Dirda's ON CONAN DOYLE; OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING (best critical/biographical), Neil Gaiman's "The Case of Death and Honey" (best short story), and Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" and Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" (competing head-to-head for best play); Neil's story appeared in the anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK. The winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 26.
 45. Distinctive Dummies, founded in 2010, creates attractive 12" custom action figures for fans of science fiction, horror, and Hammer Films, and the last of those categories has brought them to Peter Cushing as Sherlock Holmes in the 1959 film "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The figure costs \$99.99 postpaid worldwide, and if you want to see it in full color you can visit their web-site at <www.distinctivedummies.net/the_hammer_collection.html>. If they're successful with Cushing, they hope to follow up with Basil Rathbone and Jeremy Brett.
 46. Mill Creek Entertainment is planning to release a three-DVD set with all 26 episodes of the animated children's series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" on Feb. 21 (\$12.98), along with a single "best-of" DVD with 10 episodes (\$9.98). And for completists: there will be different artwork on the boxes.
 47. Sarah Greenwood, the production designer for both of Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" films, will recreate her production studio for an exhibition at the Arts Gallery at the University of the Arts London, through Mar. 9; she has mocked up her studio, including research material, scripts, notebooks, drawings, schedules, and models. More information about the exhibition can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/78l87hx>.
 48. CBS announced plans for a modern-day "Sherlock Holmes" drama last year (Sep 11 #5), and the entertainment trade press has now reported (Jan. 17) that CBS has green-lighted the project, which is now called "Elementary" and is a step closer to actual production. The new pilot will have Holmes living in New York City.
 49. Welcome to our new postage rates, which are now 45¢ per ounce (domestic), 85¢ (Canada), and \$1.05 (international). The old rates were 44¢/80¢/98¢. The cost of printed envelopes also has increased, and the new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version of Scuttlebutt are \$11.70 (domestic) and \$16.50 (Canada) and \$18.90 (international). Electronically enabled readers can of course read the newsletter on-line without charge: searchable text of all issues since Mar. 1985 is available at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>, and Scott Monty's archive of scanned images of issues since Jan. 2011 can be found at Scribd's web-site <www.scribd.com/collections/2854548/Scuttlebutt-from-the-Spermaceti-Press>.

50. Feb 12 #1: The Internet certainly makes things interesting (or frustrating) for people want to be surprised when they see films or television: web-sites have been flooded with discussion of the BBC's second series, and it's not going to be easy for American viewers who won't see the series until it is broadcast here in May to avoid spoilers. And then there are the DVDs, which are now available to anyone who can play region 2 DVDs on a computer or on a multiregion DVR. But it will be reasonably safe to read this newsletter, where you won't find anything about the shocking revelations in Laura Lyons' diaries in "The Hounds of Baskerville".
51. MovieViral.com is web-site that offers news and analysis of viral and ARG [alternate reality game] campaigns for films and other forms of entertainment, and they ran a story by Anne Kirn on Feb. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/78bpuyq> about the fan-based "Believe in Sherlock" movement launched after the finale of the BBC's second "Sherlock" television series.
52. And sales of Sherlock Holmes books have increased in Britain: a representative of Waterstone's (the nation's largest chain of book stores) has said, "The BBC's stunning adaptation has succeeded in making Holmes relevant to a new generation of readers. Whilst the original books may lack references to blogging and cyberspace, the stories remain utterly compelling."
53. THE GRAND GAME: A CELEBRATION OF SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: VOLUME TWO: 1960-2010, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, is a splendid companion to the first volume (Jan 11 #3), demonstrating how enjoyable it can be watching experts play the Sherlockian game; Klinger's introduction "Why We Write" explains the rules and notes correctly that "the Grand Game is alive and well!" 390 pp., \$39.95 to the U.S./\$49.95 elsewhere, plus shipping). The publisher's web-site is at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
54. Nicol Williamson died on Dec. 16 He began his acting career in repertory theater and joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1962, quickly becoming a highly-regarded star on stage, screen, and television, and was compared to Charles Laughton, Laurence Olivier, and Marlon Brando. His film roles included an appearance as Sherlock Holmes in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).
55. The "news" has been reported all over the Internet, but it originated with the [London] Sun, which is widely regarded as the least reliable newspaper published in the U.K.: "Guy Ritchie is making a third Sherlock Holmes movie --but this time it will be based in Hollywood." Needless to say, the story is credited to "a source."
56. "The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd" is an audio and video series created by Grant Baciocco and Doug Price for Dementia Radio in 2004 and now distributed via podcast; there were three 10-minute Sherlockian episodes, podcast on Oct. 13, 21, and 27, 2008, that are notable for the actor who played Sherlock Holmes: Stan Freberg; the first episode (#708) ends with a set-up and the story continues in episodes #709 and #710. You can listen to and download the programs at <www.doctorfloyd.com/media/season7>. Bill Anselm gets credit for discovering and reporting the series.

57. Feb 12 #2: Mike Kean reports that the Diogenes Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea will hold a special meeting in San Francisco on Nov. 10 aboard the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, the only surviving operational World War II Liberty ship. The gathering will include other Sherlockian societies in northern California, and all Sherlockians are welcome to attend; there will be a private tour of the vessel, cocktails, a catered dinner, and a program on "The Nautical Sherlock Holmes". Additional information about the event is available from Capt. Walter W. Jaffee <mships@yahoo.com>. And the ship has its own web-site at <www.ssjeremiahobrien.org>.
58. Michael Dirda's ON CONAN DOYLE; OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING has been nominated for an Agatha (best nonfiction) from Malice Domestic; the winners of the Agathas will be announced at the Malice Awards Banquet in Bethesda, Md., on Apr. 30. There's still time to register for the convention; their web-site's at <www.malicedomestic.org>.
59. The 2011 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 64 pages of scholarship, quizzes, and pastiches; the scholarship ranges from Stephen Adkins' "Is Sherlock Holmes a Drug Addict?" to Bill Mason's "Diagnosing 'The Resident Patient': Questions About a Sherlockian Tale". The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.), checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles should be sent to Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. There's also news of a handsome Sherlockian giclee print by Gayle Holmes shown in full color at <www.gayleholmesfineart.com>; if you mention The Sound of the Baskervilles when you place your order, she will donate 10% of the proceeds to the society's treasury.
60. A limited-edition linocut print (38/75), signed in pencil, of Edward Bawden's frontispiece for the Folio Society edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1987) was sold at Swords Fine Art Auctioneers on Jan. 10, with an estimate of £400-£500; it sold, with a hammer price of £400.
61. Chris Martin, front man for the rock band Coldplay, and husband of Gwyneth Paltrow, has long enjoyed the Sherlock Holmes stories (Jun 05 #4), and (according to director Guy Ritchie) suggested Stephen Fry for the role of Mycroft in "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows".
62. Sherlockiana continues to appear in Japan, thanks to translations by Masamichi Higurashi; Mitch's latest are Carole Nelson Douglas' GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES (Tokyo Sogensha, 2 vols., ¥940 each), and Daniel Stashower's "The Second Treaty" for MYSTERIES! (v. 48, ¥1,200), which also has Mitch's essay on Sherlockian pastiches in 2000-2001.
63. Josef Skvorecky died on Jan. 3. He was a famous Czech writer and an energetic promoter and publisher of Czech literature. His SINS FOR FATHER KNOX (1989) was a delightful tribute to Ronald A. Knox; it's a collection of ten stories, each of which violates one of the "decatalogue" rules Knox invented for writing detective fiction (Skvorecky challenged his readers not only to identify the murderer but also to decide which rule had been broken).

64. Feb 12 #3: IN THE SHADOW OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (San Diego: IDW, 2011; 350 pp., \$16.99), is a fine anthology of early stories about other detectives by authors who range from Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1862) to Arthur Conan Doyle (1898) to William MacHarg and Edwin Balmer (1910), with atmospheric artwork by Michael Manomivibul, and an introduction and (needless to say) annotations by the editor.
65. The Racine Theatre Guild will produce Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" on Apr. 13-22. 2519 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, WI 53404 (262-633-4218) <www.racinetheatre.org>.
66. STARRETT SPEAKS: THE LOST RECORDINGS is a delightful new CD from the Wessex Press, with recently discovered recordings; there are 40 minutes of audio, including Robert Cromie's interview with Starrett and Orlando Park on WTTWTV in 1964), and Starrett's readings of his own Sherlockiana. \$12.95 from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256) <www.wessexpress.com>.
67. Also from the Wessex Press (as the Gasogene Press): THE ILLUSTRATED SPECKLED BAND: THE ORIGINAL 1910 STAGE PRODUCTION IN SCRIPT AND PHOTOGRAPHS, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (104 pp., \$19.95), offering the script of Conan Doyle's play (from Samuel French in 1912), photographs and discussion (from Playgoer and Society Illustrated, 1910), and a reprint of R. Dixon Smith's article on "The Story, the Play, and the Snake"; it's as close as you will ever get to the original production of the play, and great fun.
68. Judith Freeman's index to The Serpentine Muse (Jan 12 #5) is now available Sherlocktron <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/Serpentine.Muse.pdf>, along with the other material Willis Frick kindly makes available.

69. THE REALLY RAGGED SHAW: BEING THE EXPANDED RAGGED SHAW was published by David L. Hammer from his Gasogene Press in 1994 as a birthday tribute to John Bennett Shaw, offering splendid examples of the imagination and inspiration and humor to be found in the quizzes devised by the Sage of Santa Fe. It's now back in print with an additional new preface by Saul Cohen, from George Vanderburgh (176 pp., \$20.00); Box 50, R.R. #4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.
70. Les and Carol Moskowitz, who discovered Sherlock Holmes pubs in France and Norway (Jun 11 #5), have continued their search and have added Australia to their life list, with the Sherlock Holmes Inn at 415 Collins Street in Melbourne (415 Collins Street <www.thesherlockholmes.com.au>.
71. Reported by Christopher Roden: CONAN DOYLE CONTRE SHERLOCK HOLMES, a new biography (in French) by Emmanuel Le Bret (Paris: Editions du Moment, 2011; 204 pp., €18.50).
72. BBC Books has published new tie-in editions of A STUDY IN SCARLET, with an introduction by Steven Moffat, and THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an introduction by Mark Gatiss (£6.99 each), each with cover art from the "Sherlock" mini-series. The series will continue on Mar. 29 with THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (introduction by Steve Thompson), THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (introduction by Benedict Cumberbatch), and THE SIGN OF FOUR (introduction by Martin Freeman).

73. Feb 12 #4: Jim French's Imagination Theatre has been airing "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" for many years (Jun 98 #4), on many radio stations, on Sirius XM Book Radio <www.siriusxm.com/bookradio>, and on the Internet at <www.jimfrenchproductions.com>, where you can download single programs (\$1.99), purchase CDs (\$12.95), and listen to a weekly web-stream. And if you would like to see what radio drama is like before it's broadcast, 11 scripts from the series are available in M. J. Elliott's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE AIR (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 340 pp., £14.99/€16.99/\$22.95), with an interesting introduction and notes by the author. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.com>.
74. One sees Sherlock everywhere: Roland C. (of the Baskerville Hall Club) has noted a link to the three-minute official music video for Nabiha's single "Deep Sleep", which you can see at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0BDpG4k4M0>.
75. Ian Abercrombie died on Jan. 26. He began his stage career as a dancer in England in 1934, came to the U.S. in 1951, and acted on stage, screen, and television; best known as Elaine's demanding boss Mr. Pitt on "Seinfeld", he also played a train conductor in Stewart Granger's television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972) and Inspector Lestrade in the "Save Sherlock Holmes" episode of "Fantasy Island" (1982).
76. Clive Francis' play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be produced at the Lawrence Batley Theatre, Mar. 12-17; Queen's Square, Queen Street, Huddersfield, West Yorks. HD1 2SP (01484-430528) <www.thelbt.org>.
77. There's more news about the CBS "Elementary" project (Jan 12 #7), about a modern-day Sherlock Holmes living in New York City: according to the Hollywood Reporter (Feb. 14), Jonny Lee Miller (who played Jordan Chase in the Showtime series "Dexter") has been signed to play the title role. Benedict Cumberbatch was Miller's co-star on stage in London in "Frankenstein" last year, alternating the roles of Frankenstein and the monster, and now they both will be playing Sherlock Holmes. You can see them (briefly) in a oneminute promotion for "Frankenstein" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FEakglj-uA>.
78. So: what other films and television shows have had Holmes living in (rather than traveling to) cities other than London? Larry Hagman's "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976) is one. Any others?
79. "Sherlock Holmes Averts World War Using Mathematics" was the headline on a article by Jessica Hamzelou in the CultureLab blog of the New Scientist on Jan. 9: the producers of the film asked Oxford mathematicians Alain Goriely and Derek Moulton to write the equations seen on Moriarty's blackboard, and they also created the code in Moriarty's red pocket notebook, and wrote the lecture that Holmes attended in disguise. You can read all about it in the blog at <www.tinyurl.com/6p8egal>.
80. Radio Litopia is an interesting British web-site, and their series "Litopia After Dark" had a Sherlockian evening on Feb. 5 with a 54-minute interview with Bert Coules, who has dramatized a long series of Sherlockian (Canonical and extra-Canonical) broadcasts for BBC Radio. You can read all about it (and see a photograph of Bert) and listen to or download the program at <www.litopia.com/radio/the-man-behind-sherlock-holmes>.

81. Feb 12 #5: NINE LIVES OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, by Graham Holderness (London: Continuum, 2011; 215 pp., £18.99/\$27.95) is an interesting literary biography in which Holderness uses a combination of critical essays and fictional narratives to explore nine aspects of Shakespeare's life and career. "The Adventure of Shakespeare's Ring" is a pastiche that has Holmes, Watson, Lord Alfred Douglas, and Oscar Wilde examining the possibility that Shakespeare was a homosexual.
82. Bruce Holmes died on Dec. 21. An early member of the Bimetallic Question of Montreal, he was an energetic philatelist and greatly enjoyed publishing Sherlockian pamphlets illustrated with carefully-selected and appropriate postage stamps and cancellations.
83. BMW has launched the Baker Street Mini (a special limited edition, which will go on sale on Mar. 1; the car will be priced from £16,365 in Great Britain and available world-wide. It's named for the area of London where Sherlock Holmes lived (one press report noted that Baker Street also is the name of a hit song by Gerry Rafferty, and suggested that the car might be come with a saxophone rather than a horn).
84. The next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Mar. 30-Apr. 1, with a dinner at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, the annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch, and the registration form is available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
85. "Studying Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 20-21; their program will feature a tribute to "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of the Four", and their mailing list is maintained by Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@gmail.com>.
86. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-2.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including news and views of society meetings here and there, and a nice photograph of the Senters.
87. The Sherlockian "Mr. Gallagher & Mr. Shean" duet performed by Jim Saunders and Henry Boote during the birthday festivities last month is now available to a wider audience, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHYsnsL1VT0>.
88. The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers a "100 Years Ago" discussion by Dick Sveum of early Danish translations of the Canon and a "50 Years Ago" tribute by Julie McKuras to H. W. Starr and Ron Haydock, plus other new from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

89. Feb 12 #6: SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREEN, by Alan Barnes (London: Titan Books, 2011; 320 pp., £16.99/\$19.95) carries the accurate subtitle THE COMPLETE FILM AND TV HISTORY, and is a well-illustrated treasure trove of information; it's up to date through "Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock

- Holmes" and the first "Sherlock" series from the BBC. The first version of Barnes' book was published in 2001, and the new edition has an enthusiastic foreword by Steven Moffat. It is a valuable reference book, and recommended. The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
90. Titan continues to extend its series "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" with pastiches new and old. THE WEB WEAVER, by Sam Siciliano (394 pp., £7.99/\$9.95) is new; the story's told by Holmes' cousin Dr. Henry Vernier and his wife Michelle, and offers an interesting mystery, tragedy, and romance.
 91. The older pastiches are interesting as well: Richard L. Boyer's THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA (1976) has one of the more interesting (and perhaps improbable) identifications of the ferocious beast, and Sam Siciliano's THE ANGEL OF THE OPERA (1994) is an earlier tale told by Vernier, about Holmes' trip to Paris to confront the Phantom of the Opera (both 309 pp., £7.99/\$9.95).
 92. Titan's new and expanded edition of Kim Newman's ANNO DRACULA: THE BLOODY RED BARON (587 pp., £7.99/\$14.95) is a sequel to his ANNO DRACULA (Dec 11 #12); the Diogenes Club (and Mycroft Holmes) have helped the British overthrow the Prince Consort Count Dracula, who is now providing assistance to the German armies in World War I. There's a very brief appearance by Sherlock Holmes, as well as an aftermath story set in 1923, annotations, and a screenplay Newman wrote for Roger Corman. Newman has a fine way with vampires and an imaginative skill with colorful language.
 93. Titan also has reprinted two of the Harry Houdini mysteries written by Daniel Stashower: THE DIME MUSEUM MURDERS (2000) and THE FLOATING LADY MURDER (2000); the novels are set in the late 1890s, when Houdini was still trying to launch his career as an escapologist (and liked to quote from the Sherlock Holmes stories). Finally, "Imagine a person, tall, lean, and feline, high-shouldered, with a brow like Shakespeare and a face like Satan." That would be Dr. Fu-Manchu, the insidious villain created by Sax Rohmer; Titan has reprinted THE MYSTERY OF DR. FU-MANCHU (1913) and THE RETURN OF DR. FUMANCHU (1916) and plans to continue with twelve more novels.
 94. Carole Nelson Douglas' "Irene Adler" novella THE PRIVATE WIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, previously anthologized in SEX, LIES, AND PRIVATE EYES (Jul 09 #6) is now available as an Amazon Kindle e-book (\$2.99) from Wishlist Publishing; it's an amusing story, involving Holmes and Irene meeting the Prince of Wales in a house of ill repute.
 95. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Dayna Nuhn's interesting (and timely) survey of Valentine's Day cards, reports on last year's "A Study in Scandal" conference, and other news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
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96. Feb 12 #7: Daniel McGachey's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE IMPOSSIBLE CASES (Colusa: Dark Regions Press, 2010; 273 pp., \$18.95) is a collection of five pastiches, echoing the unrecorded cases and with considerable emphasis on the supernatural. Dark Regions also has published William Meikle's SHERLOCK HOLMES: REVENANT (2011; 135 pp., \$14.95); Holmes and Watson, on the run from the official police, travel to Scotland and back to London in pursuit of an evil genius with supernatural powers. The publisher has a web-site at <www.darkregions.com>.
 97. John Baesch spotted a profile of Umberto Eco in the Sunday Times (Oct. 30) that reports that Eco was astounded by the success of his novel THE NAME OF THE ROSE, and that he regarded the film as a travesty.
 98. "Remember kicking back in the 1890s? There was nothing better than relaxing with the latest Sherlock Holmes adventure in The Strand Magazine and a Gilbert and Sullivan cylinder on the phonograph." According to CNET story (Feb. 6), spotted by Bill Barnes. Michael Greensmith has made a Steampunk iPhonograph that will play music from your iPad. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/84xmruh>.
 99. Joan Proubasta, who presides over Círculo Holmes, the Sherlockian society in Barcelona, has donated his Sherlockian collection to La Biblioteca Arús, and there's a 4-minute video showing the library's exhibition (and Joan) at <www.tinyurl.com/7e83xqz>.
 100. The latest Sherlockian audio from Big Finish is THE TANGLED SKEIN, adapted by Richard Dinnick from David Stuart Davies' book (1992) and starring Nicholas Briggs as Holmes, Richard Earl as Watson, and Giles Watling as Count Dracula; on two CDs (\$23.91) and as a download (\$12.99); PO Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England) <www.bigfinish.com>. It's a full-cast recording, with featurette interviews with cast and crew, and nicely done.
 101. Noted by Greg Darak: MR. MAGOO: THE COMPLETE TELEVISION COLLECTION, 1960-1977, a new set of 11 DVDs from Shout! Factory (\$79.97); the contents include the 30-minute NBC animated television series "The Famous Adventures of Mr. Magoo", in which "Mr. Magoo's Sherlock Holmes" (1965) featured Jim Backus (Mr. Magoo/Dr. Watson) and Paul Freas (Sherlock Holmes). Mr. Magoo also appears briefly in Sherlockian costume at the end of "Mr. Magoo's Dick Tracy and the Mob" (1965). If you're willing to settle for lower fidelity, both episodes are available on the Internet at YouTube <www.youtube.com>.
 102. Greg also reports that LOOK I MADE A HAT, the second volume of Steven Sondheim's collected lyrics, includes "I Never Do Anything Twice" (the song he wrote for the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution"), and that an article in the spring issue of The Sondheim Review that lists Steven Sondheim's favorite films, one of which is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939); the magazine's web-site is at <www.sondheimreview.com>.
 103. "People sometimes wonder why I belong to The Baker Street Irregulars," Michael Dirda wrote in his blog at the N.Y. Review of Books, adding that "the answer, of course, is elementary: friendship, collegiality, fellowship." A sentiment that applies equally to the wider world of Sherlockians; the blog can be read at <www.nybooks.com/blogs/nyrblog/2012/feb/02/sherlock-lives>.
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104. Feb 12 #8: Joe McDonald reports that there will be a "Conan Doyle Weekend" in Haslemere (Surrey) on June 15-17, with events that include a performance of David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes-The Last Act", a screening of Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), presentations by Andrew Lane, Andrew Lycett, Catherine Cooke, and Roger Johnson, and a murder-mystery dinner. You can go to <www.haslemerehall.co.uk> and click on "Events" for more information.
 105. The Machickanee Players will perform Tim Kelly's play "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the Park Avenue Playhouse from May 4 to May 13. 408 Park Avenue, Oconto, WI 54153 (920-834-4353) <www.machickaneeplayers.org>.
 106. Alfred A. Levin ("Abe Slaney") died on Feb. 17. Fred was an organic chemist and an enthusiastic Sherlockian; with a special interest in the Reichenbach Falls (which he visited many times); he was an active member of many of the Sherlockian societies in the Chicago area, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1993.
 107. Randall Stock continues to enhance the contents of his excellent "Best of Sherlock" web-site, which now offers an entry on another new book by Conan Doyle <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/diary-arctic-adventure.htm>. DANGEROUS WORK will feature the journal he kept in 1880 during his voyage to the Arctic aboard the SS Hope in pursuit of seals and whales, and it will be published this fall by the British Library in the U.K. and by the University of Chicago Press in the U.S.

108. Taz Rai's *THE ART OF DEDUCTION: THE WAY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2011; 102 pp., \$17.97) is an eBook that offers a detailed academic discussion of Holmes' use of rationality, logic, and observation, with examples from the Canon, by way of helping readers learn how to use Holmes' methods themselves. The author's web-site's at <www.artofdeduction.com>.
109. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie at <www.sherlockiancalendar.homestead.com>, is an excellent list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when (and where); you can contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.
110. Karen Ellery reports that the Ash-Tree Press is now offering three e-books: Barbara Roden's *THE THAMES HORROR AND OTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Dec 11 #2), David Stuart Davies' *BENDING THE WILLOW: JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Mar 97 #2) (\$9.99), and Stephen Clarkson's *THE CANONICAL COMPENDIUM* (Jan 01 #5) (\$7.99); <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/ebooks.htm>.
111. Further to the report on Laurie R. King's next "Mary Russell" novel *GAME OF SHADOWS*, due in September (Jan 12 #5), Laurie reports on her blog that she will go to Japan in April to do research on what the country was like in 1924, when Russell and Holmes were there (between the earlier novels *THE GAME* and *LOCKED ROOMS*); the next installment of the Russell saga, not yet named, is due in 2014. Laurie's web-site is at <www.laurierking.com>.
112. Mar 12 #1: Baker St, a New York-based pop-rock band made up of former and current Columbia University students, has just released their third CD: *Irregulars*. You can download the album at <www.cdbaby.com/cd/bakerst>, and there will be an EP available there soon; you can find their music videos at YouTube, and their web-site is at <www.bakerstband.com>. Michelle Hutt, the band's songwriter, explains that they decided on the name because she has been a huge fan of the Sherlock Holmes stories since high school; they also feel that in some ways their musical style is a bit more like that of rock music in the UK right now.
113. Booktrack reports that its "enhanced" edition of "The Speckled Band" (with sound effects and a soundtrack) for reading on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch (Sep 11 #4) has been downloaded more than 100,000 times, and is one of the most downloaded global eBooks of 2011. It helped, of course, that it was available without charge. Booktrack's books can now also be played on Androids, PCs, and Macs <www.booktrack.com>.
114. Lenny Picker has reported that Benedict Cumberbatch has played a young Rumpole of the Bailey on BBC Radio 4: "Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders" (2009) and "Rumpole and the Family Pride" and "Rumpole and the Eternal Triangle" (2010) featured Timothy West as the older Rumpole, and they played the same parts in "Rumpole and the Man of God" and "Rumpole and the Explosive Evidence" in March.
115. SN2apps has released four "Sherlock Holmes Interactive Radio Apps" for the iPads (other devices to follow): the stories are "The Speckled Band", "The Speckled Band", "The Five Orange Pips", and "The Man with the Twisted Lip", and the apps (\$2.99 each) come with radio scripts and dramatizations that star Edward Petherbridge and David Peart (from the fine Independent Radio Drama Productions series broadcast by National Public Radio in the 1990s), a map of London, colorful artwork, and a treasure hunt. There's more about the series at <www.sn2apps.com>, and the apps are available at Apple's apps store.
116. There's a Puffin Classics edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* (London: Puffin Penguin, 2011; 243 pp., £6.99/\$4.99) with a new introduction by Judith Kerr and cover art by Bill Sanderson.
117. "In the beginning there was Sherlock Holmes," according to someone who uses the on-line pseudonym daasgrll, "And from Holmes was brought forth House, played by Hugh Laurie. Who in Fortysomething as Peter Slippery was father to Rory Slippery, played by Benedict Cumberbatch. Who grew up to play Sherlock. And then my head exploded." Cindy Coppock spotted daasgrll's mash-up of all this at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXpyCa9IcEM>.
118. Bill Crider's monthly "Blog Bytes" column in Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* recommends interesting sites such as "Stop, You're Killing Me" (maintained by Lucinda Surber and Stan Ulrich); it won an Anthony (best blog) at Bouchercon last year, and it lists more than 3,800 authors, with chronological lists of their books (more than 43,000 titles) and much more information, including lists for characters <www.stopyourekillngme.com>.
119. Mar 12 #2: "The Black Swan is an inn of repute in the High Street," Watson wrote (in "The Copper Beeches"), and the Black Swan is one of the very few real hotels found in the Canon. According to an article in the *Hampshire Chronicle* (Feb. 10), Winchester's headless statue of a black swan is being repaired. A statue originally marked the Black Swan Hotel, which was demolished for road-widening in 1935, and then on the Black Swan Buildings office block that was built on the site of the hotel; the statue was damaged about ten years ago, and a new head and neck will be provided. But it's not the original statue, which fell to pieces in 1945, when members of the public raised £35 to pay a local craftsman to carve a new swan.
120. People like a good ghost story (well, perhaps people ought to like a good ghost story) and MX Publishing offers "IN THE NIGHT--IN THE DARK": *TALES OF GHOSTS AND LESS WELCOME VISITORS* (2011; 366 pp., £13.99); it's subtitled as "a complete ghostly crew and a full complement of ghostly passengers," and there's humor as well as horror and terror, although nothing Sherlockian, except that the author is Roger Johnson and the cover photograph is by Jean Upton. The book is full of grand stories and poems.
121. Marino C. Alvarez's *A PROFESSOR REFLECTS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES* also is available from MX Publishing (2012; 162 pp., £9.99); the author is a professor emeritus at Tennessee State University's College of Education and a member of The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, and the book is a collection of papers old and new, including an analysis of Eric L. Conklin's first Sherlock Holmes Mystery Painting (which you can see in full color at <www.ericconklin.com/sherlockholmes1.html> and a report on a trip to Trinity College Oxford to inspect the Ronald A. Knox papers and the Gryphon Club Book of Minutes.
122. MX Publishing has many pastiches: Wilfred Huettel's *MARK OF THE BASKERVILLE HOUND* (2011; 211 pp., £10.99) begins in 1982 with a retired New York police officer recounting his visit to Dartmoor and an encounter with a terrifying modern version of the hound. Kieren E. McMullen's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE IRISH REBELS* (2011; £10.99) has Holmes and Watson in Dublin in 1916, deeply involved in espionage and the Irish Rebellion. Fred Thursfield's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DISCARDED CIGARETTE* (2012; 100 pp., £6.99) brings Holmes and Watson to a meeting with H. G. Wells, whose Time Machine has been used by a crafty art forger. Margaret Park Bridges' *MY DEAR WATSON* (2011; 217 pp., £9.99) was written in English and published in Japanese some years ago (Jan 99 #3) and is now available in English; Holmes is a woman (unknown to Watson and everyone else) and engaged in a desperate struggle with Constance Moriarty, daughter of the evil professor.
123. David Ruffle's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS HORROR*, first published in 2009 (May 11 #4), has been reissued by MX Publishing in a second expanded edition (2012; 173 pp., £9.99); the title story has Holmes and Watson in Lyme Regis, pursuing the vampire Count Olana in 1896 (Bram Stoker's *DRACULA* was published in 1897), and there are additional short stories, poems, and fragments. Ruffle's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS LEGACY* (2012, 174 pp., £9.99) offers more Sherlockian tales (with some non-Sherlockian ghost stories), and he's the editor of *TALES FROM THE STRANGER'S ROOM* (2012, 241 pp., £10.99), an anthology of pastiches, vignettes, and poetry written by members of the on-line forum <www.holmesian.net>.

124. Mar 12 #3: Michael Saler's AS IF: MODERN ENCHANTMENT AND THE LITERARY PREHISTORY OF VIRTUAL REALITY (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012; 283 pp., \$27.95) is an interesting examination of the fantasy worlds created by authors ranging from Verne to Tolkien, with a delightful chapter ("Clap if You Believe in Sherlock Holmes: Arthur Conan Doyle and Animistic Reason") that discusses naive believers, ironic believers, and the strange behavior that's found in the world of Sherlockians.
 125. The Hollywood Reporter confirmed (Feb. 27) that the CBS-TV pilot "Elementary" will feature Lucy Liu as Watson; she is currently starring as Officer Jessica Tang in the TNT television series "Southland"; Deadline Hollywood (Feb. 27) had details on the premise: Jonny Lee Miller stars as eccentric Brit Sherlock Holmes, a former consultant to Scotland Yard whose addiction problems led him to a rehab center in New York City; just out of rehab, he now lives in Brooklyn with "sober companion" Joan Watson, a former surgeon who lost her license after a patient died, while consulting for the NYPD.
 126. Some reports have suggested that Lucy Liu will be the first female Watson. Well, not quite: there have been at least three (in films and on television). Care to identify them?
 127. A later report has Aidan Quinn joining the cast of "Elementary" as Gregson, a captain in the NYPD who worked with Holmes previously at Scotland Yard. Quinn recently starred in the NBC-TV series "Prime Suspect".
 128. E. W. Barton-Wright's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SCHOOL OF SELF-DEFENCE: THE MANLY ART OF BARTITSU AS USED AGAINST PROFESSOR MORIARTY (Lewes: Ivy Press, 2011; 127 pp., £6.99) is an amusing compilation of his articles in Pearson's Magazine, with enhancements that include Marcus Tindal's "Self-Protection on a Cycle"; Bartitsu is mentioned in the Canon (misspelled as baritsu), and it probably is just as well that Violet Smith had not read Tindal's article.
 129. THE MORIARTY PAPERS, compiled by Colonel Sebastian Moran (London: New Holland, 2011; 160 pp., £7.99), is collection of Moriarty's surviving papers in the form of a full color scrapbook, with entertaining marginal comments by Moran; it would appear that Moriarty was involved in most of Holmes' cases.
 130. Don Hobbs reports that the total number of languages known to have at least one Canonical translation has reached 92, the latest being Breton, in which there's a translation KI AR VASKERVILLED (272 pp., €9.00 from Coop Breizh at <www.coop-breizh.fr>. Breton is a Celtic language spoken in Brittany, and Vaskervilled is Baskerville in English.
 131. "The book is a rather silly story about a governess and two haunted children. I am afraid that in it Mr. James exposes the extent of his ignorance. He knows little about children and nothing at all about governesses." Governess Hester Barrow, in Diane Setterfield's THE THIRTEEN TALE (2006).
 132. There was a discussion of the phrase "jumping the shark" on the Letters of Mary e-mailing list (for fans of the Mary Russell books), and Kathy Elliott recommended <www.tvtropes.org>; it's a wiki "catalog of the tricks of the trade for writing fiction," and of course a search for [sherlock] brings up a long list of interesting commentary.
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133. Mar 12 #4: Greg Darak has noted a Russian CD "Vladimir Dashkevich: Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" issued by Bomba Music in Moscow in 2002 with tracks from the Russian television series (Dashkevich was the composer of the scores); copies of the CD turn up at eBay, and some of his music is available on the Internet for listening or download.
 134. Jan Berenstain died on Feb. 24. With her husband Stan she created the Berenstain Bears in 1962, launching a series of children's books that became one of the most successful in children's literature; the series, with more than 300 books, has sold more than 260 million copies, and the Berenstain Bears have been seen in stage musicals, television series, videocassettes and DVDs, and as toys. THE BEAR DETECTIVES: THE CASE OF THE MISSING PUMPKIN was published in 1975, with Detective Brother and Detective Sister appearing in Sherlockian costume; they've been seen in many later books, and in a set of figurines issued in 1985.
 135. Gayle Harris recommends the web-site Old Maps Online as an excellent portal for inspecting digital historical maps in libraries around the world. The URL is <www.oldmapsonline.org>, and one can explore Baker Street as well as a world of other locations.
 136. According to a story in the Sussex Courier (Feb. 17), Crowborough historian Michael Tuffley has begun a campaign to erect a statue of Sherlock Holmes in the town, and hopes to raise £50,000 to cover the costs. But town councillor George Moss, noting that Crowborough already has a statue of Conan Doyle, felt there was no need for another statue, and that the money might be best spent elsewhere.
 137. Philip K. Jones has compiled (and continues to compile) an excellent data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction; he had entries for 5,520 different items some years ago (Apr 06 #6), and his count now stands at more than 9,000. The data base is interesting and informative, and available on-line <www.michael-procter.com/holmes/_index.html>.
 138. And who are the women who have played Watson? Joanne Woodward (Dr. Mildred Watson) in "They Might Be Giants" (1971), Jenny O'Hara (Doctor Watson) in "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976), and Margaret Colin (Jane Watson) in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987). There's a fourth, (though likely seen by fewer people): Gina Ryder (Dr. Emma Watson) in the pornographic film "The Secret of Harlot Hill" (2001).
 139. The earlier question (Feb 12 #4) was about films and television shows (other than CBS-TV's "Elementary") that have had Holmes living in (rather than traveling to) cities other than London? Larry Hagman's "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976) is one, and Judith Freeman adds Anthony Higgins' "1994 Baker Street: Sherlock Holmes Returns" (1993) to the list.
 140. Something else for fans of the Benedict Cumberbatch series: a four-minute montage of a scene from the first program, dubbed into four different languages <www.radiotimes.com/news/2012-02-25/je-m'appelle-sherlock-holmes>. And there's <www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk/Sherlock/press.html>, reported by Karen Murdock; it's an unofficial fan-site with links to newspaper and magazine articles and much more.
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141. Mar 12 #5: "At the main pilgrimage temple he paid his respects to the head Lama, who gave him 'a bag of tiny pills which would preserve me from every possible mischance.'" Spotted by John Baesch in the Daily Telegraph obituary (Jan. 31) for Augusto Gansser, a Swiss geologist who died at the age of 101. He visited Tibet in 1936, disguised as a Buddhist pilgrim, and he met the head Lama at Mt. Kailash. And his geological expertise was not limited to the Himalayas: another technical paper "The Roraima Problem, South America" was published in 1974.
 142. "Sherlock & Shylock: The Sleuths of Venice" will be the theme of the No Fog Countries Meeting II, scheduled by Uno Studio in Holmes in Venice on Oct. 12-14; details at <www.unostudioinholmes.org/inglese/ing_homepage.htm>, and you can expect wining, dining, lectures, tours, and a concert.
 143. Mona Morstein's THE CHILDHOOD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was first published by the Galde Press (Feb 00 #6), and it has been reissued by UCS Press in two volumes as THE HOLMES BOYS: SHERLOCK AND MYCROFT (\$14.95 per volume); it's an imaginative and well-written history of the Holmes family, both parents and children, told by the butler who served them.
 144. Tim Kelly died on Dec. 7, 1998. According to an obituary in Playbill, he was thought to be the most-published playwright in America, under his own name and at least four pseudonyms, writing more than 300 comedies, dramas, one-acts, mysteries, melodramas, children's shows, and musicals. His

- work continues to be popular in the amateur market: in 1998, the Pioneer Drama Service (one of his publishers) licensed more than 3,000 productions of his plays worldwide. His Sherlockian credits include more than a dozen plays, among them an adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" and dramatizations of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Speckled Band".
145. Titan's recent reprint of Sax Rohmer's THE MYSTERY OF DR. FU-MANCHU (Feb 12 #6) has at the end an interesting essay by Les Klinger on "Appreciating Dr. Fu-Manchu". A separate section "About the Author" notes the truly ironic fact that Rohmer died in 1959, "a victim of an outbreak of the type A influenza known as the Asian flu."
 146. One assumes that many Sherlockians have ordered the British region 2 DVDs of the second series of the BBC's "Sherlock" (at least those Sherlockians who can play the DVDs on multi-region DVRs or computers). The box for the British DVDs carries a "12" rating ("Suitable only for persons of 12 years and over"), which is similar to the Motion Picture Association of America's "PG-13" rating ("Parents Strongly Cautioned: Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13"). But that's not because Lara Pulver is seen wearing nothing but a pair of Louboutins: the box for the British DVDs with the first series carries the same "12" warning.
 147. Christopher Roden has reported that the Arthur Conan Doyle Society has received a message from the Parish Church of St. Oswald's Thornton in Lonsdale, Yorkshire, where Arthur Conan Doyle married Louisa Hawkins in 1885: St. Oswald's proposes to commission a special "Arthur Conan Doyle Plaque" to be affixed to the lych gate entrance to the church and graveyard, and hopes to raise £20,000 for the project, which will also enhance the church facilities with a new kitchen area and disabled toilet.
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148. Mar 12 #6: "It Seems There's Gnome Place Like Holmes," according to a story in Radio Times (Mar. 9): Disney will start production this fall on "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes", a 3D animation that's a sequel to their "Gnomeo & Juliet" (2011); the new film is reported to have Gnomeo and Juliet enlisting the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, when gnomes start disappearing from the suburban gardens of England. Elton John will write songs for the film.
 149. Thad Holt discovered an article in the Daily Telegraph about an exhibition at the Wandsworth Museum of photographs of historic London (including some striking scenes from the Victorian era <www.tinyurl.com/77oucy>).
 150. This year is the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, and William Seil's THE TITANIC TRAGEDY (London: Titan Books, 2012; 261 pp., £7.99/\$9.95) is the latest addition to the publisher's series of reprints in its "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" series; the pastiche was first published in 1996 and has Holmes and Watson aboard the ship, on secret assignment by the government and facing an assortment of villains. The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
 151. Further to the item about the "Conan Doyle Weekend" in Haslemere (Surrey) on June 15-17, there's a web-site at <www.haslemere.com/conandoye> giving more information about events and lodging.
 152. Peter Bergman died on Mar. 9. He was one of the four founders of the Firesign Theatre in 1966 (the Washington Post once described the Firesign experience as "an impolite talk show where the host has lost control"). The Sherlockian world welcomed their 1974 record "The Tale of the Giant Rat of Sumatra" (also known as "A Thrilling Mis-Adventure from 'The Cheque Book of Hemlock Stones'").
 153. <www.bookshelfporn.com>, noted by Samantha Wolov, is a "photo blog collection of all the best bookshelf photos from around the world." Pay special attention to <www.bookshelfporn.com/post/1262757876>.
 154. Those who wonder about Victorian slang may wish to read the story (spotted by Karen Rhodes) in the Daily Telegraph (Feb. 24) about the on-line availability of the 2nd edition of Francis Grose's A CLASSICAL DICTIONARY OF THE VULGAR TONGUE (1811) at Project Gutenberg <www.tinyurl.com/8a3c9ss>. And Darlene Cypser has noted a more recent resource: J. Redding Ware's PASSING ENGLISH OF THE VICTORIAN ERA: A DICTIONARY OF HETERODOX ENGLISH, SLANG, AND PHRASE (1909) <www.tinyurl.com/86wfxhk>.
 155. Hellokids.com is an imaginative web-site reported by Karen Murdock: among the many features are print-out coloring pages with an assortment of British authors, including Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/6rcnq7t>.
 156. Ken Lanza reports that Holmes & Watson, a British-style pub in Troy, N.Y., will close on Apr. 13. The British-style pub opened in 1978 and has been sold to new owners and will reopen in June as Finnbar's Irish Pub. Holmes & Watson offered for some years a "world tour" prize to customers who tried all of the pub's approximately 100 draft and bottled beers within a year. Ken also reports that he was one of the pub's first customers.
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157. Mar 12 #7: The BBC has reported that filming on the third "Sherlock" season will begin early next year. One reason for the hiatus, of course, is that the stars have other work: Benedict Cumberbatch is filming the next "Star Trek" movie and Martin Freeman is working on "The Hobbit". In the meantime, "Masterpiece" is running a count-down clock for the second season (which starts on May 6), with a variety of video and other links that include a "reader discretion advised" interview with Cumberbatch and a feature on Andrew Scott (who definitely is one of the more imaginative Moriarty's). The series will be released in the U.S. on Blu-ray and DVD on May 22 with the three new episodes, audio commentary for the first two, and a behind-the-scenes featurette ("Sherlock Uncovered").
 158. The Browser bills itself as a "21st-century library of Writing Worth Reading", and one of its offerings is an interview with Michael Dirda about the world of Sherlockians and about his favorite Sherlockian and Doylean books <www.thebrowser.com/interviews/michael-dirda-on-sherlock-holmes>.
 159. "Sherlock Holmes Complains about Fake Sherlock Holmeses" is an amusing twominute video spotted by Lloyd Rose at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/7jo7asj>.
 160. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-3.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including news and views of society meetings, and a CD recording of the late Art Schroeder's audio drama "The Forgotten Victim" (the story of "The Speckled Band" as told by the snake).
 161. "Steampunk Holmes: Legacy of the Nautilus" is a work-in-progress discovered by Karen Murdock at <www.steampunkholmes.com>; there's a two-minute trailer for a planned interactive book.
 162. Martin Breese died on Feb. 23. He was an important figure in the world of magicians, as a historian and a publisher of books, CDs, and DVDs, and in 1995 began publishing a series of Sherlockian pastiches written by fellow magician Val Andrews and others; in 2005 he sold his mystery series to Antony J. Richards, but maintained his enthusiastic interest in magic.
 163. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France now holds a record for the most frequent Sherlockian society publication: their attractive Ironmongers Daily News appears daily (in French) via the Internet, and you can subscribe at their web-site <www.sshf.com> without charge.
 164. There are 166 scripts available for download from The Generic Radio Workshop's Vintage Radio Script Library <www.genericradio.com>, five from the long-running "Sherlock Holmes" series (1939-1947).

165. There seems to be no end to interesting uses of the Internet: companies are making full-length films and uploading them to YouTube for viewing or downloading without charge; you can even skip most of the commercials. One of the films is "Sherlock Holmes" (2011), length 77 minutes, produced by Anton Pictures, inspired by Universal's "The Woman in Green" (1945), directed by George Anton, with Kevin Glaser (Sherlock Holmes) and Charles Simon (Watson). You can find it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vez-PSHINSw>. Thanks to Thierry Saint-Joanis for his report on the film.
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166. Mar 12 #8: Timothy M. Brenner's LUMINARIES (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2011; 252 pp., \$9.99) involves Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Harry Houdini, and Orson Welles (all with psychic powers) in an alternate-history pursuit of a vicious serial killer; Welles is gifted with the power of mental telepathy, Houdini with telekinesis, and Conan Doyle can sense the history of objects by touching them, and they need all of those powers to defeat their adversary.
167. Neil Gaiman's pastiche "The Case of Death and Honey" was selected by editor Jonathan Strahan as one of the stories in THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY OF THE YEAR, VOLUME SIX (Night Shade Books, 2011; 600 pp., \$19.99); it is reprinted from the anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (Aug 11 #2).
168. The Royal Mail's postage rates are going up on Apr. 30: first class (next working day) service will cost 60p (96¢) for 100g (3.5oz) and second class (third working day) will cost 50p (80¢). For our British readers, Americans pay 45¢ for the first ounce, 65¢ for 2 oz, 85¢ for 3 oz, and \$1.50 for 4 oz.
169. Laurie R. King's PIRATE KING (Aug 11 #1) will be issued as a trade paperback by Bantam in April with some bonus material: a print version of BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS (Jun 11 #3) and an excerpt from the next Mary Russell novel GARMENT OF SHADOWS; previously available only as an e-novella, BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS is an imaginative look, from Holmes' point of view, at his first meeting with Russell.
170. Randall Stock continues to enhance the contents of his excellent "Best of Sherlock" web-site, where he has updated his census of copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual <www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm>; he has added a newly-reported copy at Tulane University, as well as new photographs and other information.
171. The limited-edition slip-cased set of THE GRAND GAME (with both volumes and FROM PIFF-POUFF TO BACKNECKE: THE FULL STORY) is now available for purchase from The Baker Street Irregulars; more information on the set and on prices will be found at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/grandgamelimited.html>.
172. "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" has now grossed \$534.8 million worldwide (\$186.8 million domestic and \$348.0 million foreign), more than "Sherlock Holmes" (the first film in the franchise), which grossed \$524.0 million world-wide (\$209.0 domestic and \$315.0 million foreign); the films rank #83 and #87 in all-time world-wide box-office grosses.
173. Lyndsay Faye's first novel was the well-received pastiche DUST AND SHADOW (Feb 09 #2), and her second is THE GODS OF GOTHAM, just out from Amy Einhorn Books/Putman; it's set in New York City in 1845 and thus isn't Sherlockian. You can read an excerpt at <www.tinyurl.com/6tx5ecw>, and there is a review by Claire Toohey at <www.tinyurl.com/73uo8ll>. Lyndsay also is an energetic blogger: you can read her sprightly report on the BSI annual dinner at <www.tor.com/blogs/2012/03/inside-the-baker-street-irregulars>.
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174. Apr 12 #1: The Exhibits Development Group has released an exhibition announcement for "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction", an interactive exhibition that will tour science museums from 2013 to 2016; the project, which is licensed by the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Estate Ltd., is impressive, and you can view the announcement at <www.tinyurl.com/6ou6hrs>. Click on the two links at the bottom of the blue field to see the concept document and the brochure. The tour will begin at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland in 2013. If you would like to receive the company's e-mail announcements, send a request to Angela Noble <angelan@exhibitsdevelopment.com>.
175. Brad Keefauver's weird and wonderful "Sherlock Peoria" web-site celebrates its tenth anniversary on June 12, when Brad plans to shut it down. There's still time to visit the web-site <www.sherlockpeoria.net> and see how imaginative it is; his announcement of the impending post-Sherlock Peoria world was made in his blog on Mar. 4. The April issue of The Gaslight Gazette, published by The Survivors of the Gloria Scott, opens with an appropriately imaginative protest; ask editor David J. Milner at <openshaw@bellsouth.net> for an electronic copy of the issue.
176. Later: Brad reports that he has decided to keep his web-site up on the Internet for the foreseeable future, but will abandon the weekly updates, going for a more irregular format. Tune in to his web-site for news of what will happen.
177. Brad recommends the Baker Street Babes as the new face of Sherlockiana, and they're at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>; they have a podcast, and a sprightly theme song: "They call us the Irregulars, but baby, we're always on time. Baker Street Babes always leave the rest of them behind. So when Scotland Yard, they send you home, you feel like you're losing your mind. If this quotidian world has got you cryin', won't you 221 be mine?"
178. Sorry about that: <www.sshf.com> is the correct URL for the web-site of The Société Sherlock Holmes de France, publisher of the Ironmongers Daily News (Mar 12 #7).
179. "Masterpiece" is working hard at promoting the second season of "Sherlock": there's a web-site <www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/sherlock>, and a Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/masterpiecepbs>, and there will be a live Twitter discussion during each of the three broadcasts, with the Baker Street Blog, the Baker Street Babes, Lyndsay Faye, and Les Klinger, @masterpiecepbs.
180. A BOOK, by Mordecai Gerstein (New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2009; 48 pp., \$16.99), is a charming book to read to children; grown-ups will enjoy it as much as their kids, and (of course) there is Sherlockian artwork. Compliments to Jennie Paton for spotting the book.
181. "A Parliament of Lines" is the title of an exhibition at the City Art Centre in Edinburgh (May 15 through July 8), showing the work of 15 contemporary Scottish artists, one of them Marie Harnett, who creates miniature pencil portraits. Three of them show Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, and Rachel McAdams, and you can see her portrait of Law at <www.tinyurl.com/d5eja7m>.
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182. Apr 12 #2: The Fireman's Fund is one of the more unusual insurance companies: they're the go-to insurer for the American entertainment industry, and they once insured the Loch Ness monster. They paid the studio when the monster sank during filming of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970); the monster still lurks at the bottom of the loch, awaiting discovery by some intrepid diver who doesn't know about the history of the film. The N.Y. Times had an interesting article (Mar. 24) about the company, but without any mention of the monster <www.tinyurl.com/7kenh3m>.
183. Don Hobbs has discovered a new language for Canonical translations: Friulan (spoken in the Friuli region of northeastern Italy): LIS AVENTURIS DI SHERLOCK HOLMES was published in 2009 by the Società Filologica Friulana, which has a web-site at <www.filologicafriulana.it>; search for [doyle].
184. Pamela Bruxner ("The British Government") died on Mar. 28. She was a medical secretary and was involved with several musical and literary societies; for many years she was meetings secretary of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and she edited or co-edited nine of the Society's expedition handbooks. Pam was an Honorary Member of the Society, and received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.
185. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a delightful parody that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007; it will be performed by the Penguin Rep Theatre, May 18 through June 10. 7 Crickettown Road, Stony Point, NY 10980 (845-786-2873) <www.penguinrep.org>.

186. Add Uruguay to the list of countries that have Sherlock societies: Ana Fernández is the contact for The Blue Scarves' Society, and you can find them at <www.facebook.com/groups/368486129842276>. The name of the society is a tribute to the blue scarf that's worn by Benedict Cumberbatch in the BBC's "Sherlock" mini-series.
 187. Murder Squad is a collective of five excellent British writers, and Martin Edwards has edited their BEST EATEN COLD AND OTHER STORIES (Stroud: Mystery Press, 2011; 190 pp., £6.99/\$12.95); one of the 13 stories is Edwards' own Sherlockian pastiche "The Case of the Musical Butler".
 188. Ted M. Cowell reports an article in the Daily Mail (Mar. 31) about "Sweeps, nomads, quacks, and crawlers: The exotic down and outs of Victorian London captured on camera in the 1870s" <www.tinyurl.com/7zf5xd5> with some striking photographs of what Holmes might have seen when he arrived in London as a young man.
 189. Carolyn and Joel Senter offer an imaginative "Vamberry the wine merchant" corkscrew <www.sherlock-holmes.com/collect.htm#VWM> (with a hand-engraved handle) for \$42.50. And other interesting Sherlockiana.
 190. Hans Sodertalje has reported to The Baskerville Hall Club that Andrew Taylor's BÖCKER SOM FÖRÄNDRADE VÄRLDEN: 50 VIKTIGASTE BÖCKERNA GENOM TIDERN (published in Sweden in 2009) includes an essay on EN STUDIE I ROTT. For those who don't read Swedish, that's BOOKS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD: 50 MOST IMPORTANT BOOKS OF ALL TIME and (of course) A STUDY IN SCARLET. Scandinavian books can be ordered on-line at <www.adlibris.com>.
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191. Apr 12 #3: The Bristol Riverside Theatre will present the world premiere of Allan Knee's play "Faery Tales", which the theater describes as "the true story" of the Cottingley Fairies (Conan Doyle sent the photographs to his good friend Harry Houdini, "pitting the two men, each famous for their own brand of bringing the fantastic to life, against each other in a war over reality and magic"), Jan. 29-Feb. 17. 120 Radcliffe Street, Bristol, PA 19007 (215-785-0100) <www.brtstage.org>. Conan Doyle and Houdini were involved with the Cottingley Fairies in the film "Fairy Tale: A True Story" (1997), but that wasn't true, either (there's no record of Houdini having been involved in the investigation). Knee's earlier play "The Man Who Was Peter Pan" (1998) was adapted for the film "Finding Neverland" (2004), in which Ian Hart was seen briefly as Arthur Conan Doyle.
 192. The Eastbourne Herald has reported (Mar. 19) on how the locals are honoring Sherlock Holmes and his retirement at East Dean: there's a plaque, and a 6 km walk, and an informative web-site at <www.beachyhead.org.uk>; search for [sherlock holmes].
 193. The film "Titanic" (1997) has been reissued as "Titanic 3D" as part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking. It's not a compelling reason to see the film again, but: near the beginning, when the salvagers discuss whether 100-year-old Rose Calvert could be a survivor of the disaster, one of them says the other, "There's your first clue, Sherlock."
 194. A marginal item for record collectors: "Back into the Future" is a double-LP album issued by the Welsh psychedelic/progressive rock band Man in 1973 with a cover photograph that shows Sherlock Holmes standing on the platform of an Edwardian railroad station; you can see the cover at the album's entry at Wikipedia <www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Back_Into_The_Future>. The album has been reissued as a CD with the same cover photograph.
 195. Those who fondly remember the grand gourmet Sherlockian dinners at the CIA (that's the Culinary Institute of America) may wish to attend the celebration of the 40th anniversary of The Hudson Valley Sciontists in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on May 27; the theme of the gathering will be "Sherlock Holmes on the Hudson River", and the dinner will be supervised by CIA award-winning chef Fritz Sonnensmidt. Details are available from Lou and Candace Lewis (2 Lookerman Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601) <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.
 196. Christopher Boone, narrator of Mark Haddon's award-winning best-seller THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (2003) is an autistic teenager who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories, and turns detective himself; the National Theatre in London has commissioned a dramatization of the novel, for performance starting in July.
 197. "Cloud Lovers, Unite!" is the motto of the Cloud Appreciation Society, reported by Karen Ellery, and one of the attractive photographs at the society web-site shows "Sherlock Holmes' smoking pipe over Teglio, Italy." The URL is <www.cloudappreciationsociety.org/?s=sherlock+holmes&g=1>. According to a society press release there will be a Sherlockian cloud in CLOUDS THAT LOOK LIKE THINGS, by Gavin Pretor-Pinney (London: Sceptre, 2012; 112 pp., £12.99), due in April.
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198. Apr 12 #4: "This house, built in 1881, and was once occupied by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," reads a plaque at 2151 Sacramento Street in San Francisco. The house was offered for sale in 1985 for \$1.3 million (Oct 85 #2) and was sold in 1986 for just under \$1 million (Jan 87 #2), and you can now buy one of the building's four apartments (with 3 bed bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2,528 square feet) for \$2.5 million. But: Conan Doyle never lived in the house. He was a visitor, in June 1923, to meet Dr. Albert Abrams, who did live there. Abrams had invented a "radio heterodyne" that he used to detect cancer, syphilis, and other diseases, and Conan Doyle was greatly impressed; he discusses his visit to San Francisco, and Abrams, in OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE (1924). He stayed at the Clift Hotel, which is much fancier now than it was then; the current rate for a standard room is \$255 a night.
 199. Tina Rhea spotted some interesting T-shirts at <www.redbubble.com>; search for [sherlock holmes].
 200. I've noted in past issues that members of The Baker Street Irregulars have acted in films, and I suppose that children should not be ignored. Jenny Ashman (daughter of Peter Ashman) has played Madeline in "The Karaoke King" (2007), and has other credits at the Internet Movie Database.
 201. "I love Sherlock Holmes. My life is so untidy and he's so neat." Dorothy Parker, interviewed by Marion Capron on "The Art of Fiction" in the Paris Review, summer 1956.
 202. "Hercule et Sherlock" (1996) is a French film, available on DVD (in French, although there is a version subtitled in Spanish); "when a counterfeiter is captured, two of his thugs have to work with two counterfeit money-sniffing dogs named Hercule and Sherlock to find the lost cash." Credit Irene Mihklin for spotting the film.
 203. The spring issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) has Andy Solberg's report on the Trust's Oral History Project, Vinnie Brosnan's "A Collector Recollects", and other news of and about the Trust; all issues of the newsletter are available on-line at the Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, and copies of the current issue are available from Marshall S. Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <editor@bsitrust.org>.
 204. Peter Calamai recommends the Book Depository for buying in-print books from Britain; they're in Guernsey, and at <www.bookdepository.com>, and there's no charge for world-wide shipping to more than 100 countries.
 205. The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) describe themselves as Chicago's original, senior, and most singular Sherlockian society, and one of their annual dinners featured a presentation by fight director and coordinator Tony Wolf (a co-founder of the Bartitsu Society), who performed a demonstration and previewed his upcoming documentary "Bartitsu: The Lost Martial Art of Sherlock Holmes" (there's been no word on whether any Hounds were

harmd during the demonstration). The DVD was released last year by Broken Art (\$29.95), and it is nicely done indeed; the Bartitsu enthusiasts interviewed include authors Neal Stephenson and Will Thomas.

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206. Apr 12 #5: Debbie Clark has reported Peter Tonkin's *THE HOUND OF THE BORDERS* (2003), which has Elizabethan sleuth Tom Musgrave on the Scottish borders in pursuit of the Barquest (a mythical hound of terrifying proportions); it's the third of four books in the his "Master of Defense" series, which has been described as "James Bond meets Sherlock Holmes meets William Shakespeare."
207. Plan well ahead: the Segal Centre for Performing Arts in Montreal will present a new Sherlockian play written by Greg Kramer and starring Jay Baruchel as Holmes, May 5-26, 2013 <www.segalcentre.org>.
208. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has reported on "L'extravagant mystère Holmes", a play written by Christian Chevalier and Christophe Guillon that premiered in 2010 and is still being performed by the Compagnie Kelanotre; their web-site at <www.kelanotre.com> has artwork, photographs, and a three-minute video.
209. Universal Pictures was founded on Apr. 30, 1912, and is now the oldest operating film producer and distributor in the United States. The UCLA Film & Television Archive is celebrating Universal's centenary with a seven-week film festival, showing films that range from "Traffic in Souls" (1913) to "Inglourious Basterds" (2009); details at <www.tinyurl.com/85vhvlp>. Alas: none of Basil Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes" films made the list.
210. A new Russian television series "Sherlock Holmes" has been in the works for some time, from Central Partnership, which was described as Russia's largest independent film producer and distributor (Jun 08 #6); there were many delays, but Alexander Orlov has reported that the production of the series is now underway, starring Igor Patrenko (Sherlock Holmes) and Andrey Panin (Dr. Watson) in eight two-part stories. Additional information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/723crts> (the Russian version of Wikipedia); Google Translate is a useful (and free) program that helps you read all sorts of languages on-line.
211. The Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research surely is one of the more unusual places to find "The Valley of Fear" cited. Karen Murdock discovered "Sherlock Holmes and the Strange Case of the Missing Attribution" (by Jamie Reilly and Jamie Fisher) in the Feb. 2012 issue: the authors note echoes of the story in "The Grandfather Passage", which is used by aphasiologists and others to elicit speech and reading errors. Copies are available from Prof. Reilly <jjreilly@phhp.ufl.edu>.
212. "You've Got Mail" is a weekly feature on the Houghton Library blog, and you can read Peter Accardo's report on an interesting letter from Christopher Morley to Edgar W. Smith at <www.tinyurl.com/7s2sl3y>. The letter is part of the Baker Street Irregulars Archive at the Houghton.
213. The next "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Nov. 2-4, with participants at work solving the mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Trial of Moriarty's Challenge"; there also will be a performance of "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Norwood Builder" by the East Lynne Theater Company. Visit <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html> for more information on the weekend, or write to Box 340, Cape May, N.J. 08204.
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214. Apr 12 #6 The Arthur Conan Doyle Weekend in Haslemere on June 15-17 (Feb 12 #8) now has its own web-site <www.haslemere.com/conandoyle>; Conan Doyle and first wife Touie rented Grayswood Beeches in Haslemere, and stayed at the Moorlands Hotel in Hindhead, before they moved into their new home, Undershaw, in the fall of 1897.
215. The Puzzle Society has "games for your brain" as its motto, and a web-site at <www.puzzlesociety.com>, and a long series of pocket-size themed Pocket Posh puzzle books, the latest of which is *POCKET POSH: SHERLOCK HOLMES: 100 PUZZLES & QUIZZES* (Kansas City: Andrews McMeel, 2012; 135 pp., \$7.99), and the book offers interesting mental exercise for fans.
216. Steve Hockensmith's first story about Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer was published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Feb. 2003), and he went on to write more stories and five novels about the two cowboys: Old Red is a devoted admirer of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and Big Red is his literate brother who reads the stories to Old Red as they appear in magazines in the 1890s. *DEAR MR. HOLMES: SEVEN HOLMES ON THE RANGE MYSTERIES* (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2012; 202 pp., \$11.99) collects seven stories reprinted from EQMM and the anthology *GHOST TOWNS* (2010); there's lots of detection, oldwest flavor, and humor, and even the title-page verso copyright information is funny. The author has a web-site at <www.stevhockensmith.com>.
217. The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers warm tributes to Norman Schatell by Julie McKuras and Don Pollock, "50 Years Ago" memories of John C. Hogan, and other new from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
218. Plnow (the "trusted network of private investigators") pitted 16 fictional private investigators against each other in a "March Madness" contest, and (as might be expected) Sherlock Holmes was the winner, matched in the finals against Magnum (who won a separate prize for "best private investigator mustache"). Details at <www.tinyurl.com/cp8eph1>.
219. Tyke and Teddie Niver continue to present their "Sherlock Holmes: An Evening with the Gillettes" at Gillette Castle and at other venues in Connecticut; more information is available at <www.sherlockholmesct.com>.
220. Acorn Media is continuing its evolution from distribution into content ownership and television production, recently acquiring a 64% interest in the Agatha Christie estate. They continue to offer a wide range of television series on DVDs at <www.acornonline.com>, and free episodes of many of their series at <www.acornonline.com/acornrtv>, and if you purchase premium status (\$24.99 a year) you can watch complete series on-line, and they're planning to make their service available to Roku and NOOK devices.
221. Daniel Corey's *MORIARTY* comic-book mini-series from Image (Nov 11 #7) will be turned into a stage musical, according to a Comic Book Resources story (Feb. 27) that said "it will be a very gritty and dark piece with a sense of high adventure" with music based in hard rock. Corey's media company is DangerKatt, and you can see his work at <www.professorjamesmoriarty.com>.
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222. Apr 12 #7: Further to the report (Mar 12 #7) on "Steampunk Holmes: Legacy of the Nautilus" (the first in a "multi-channel" series that's going to be available both in print and electronically), the publishers are asking for financial support for the project; pledges start at \$1.00, with premiums offered at various levels (the campaign ends on May 3). There's an interesting web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/blgusuz> with more information, artwork, and a five-minute video.
223. LUKOLI CHIKCHIKA APISA (a Choctaw translation of "The Speckled Band") was commissioned by Don Hobbs, who offers it as a 40-page pamphlet for \$20.00 postpaid (to the U.S.); his address is 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <221b@verizon.net>.
224. There's a nice assortment of new pastiches from MX Publishing, all of them (and more) available at their web-site <www.mxpublishing.com>: Tim Symonds' *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DEAD BOER AT SCOTNEY CASTLE* (2012; 277 pp., £11.99) pits Holmes and Watson against the Kipling League, a

- sinister society that manages to outwit Holmes (who understandably did not want this account published). Dean P. Turnbloom's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE WHITECHAPEL VAMPIRE* (2012; 246 pp., £10.99) has Holmes and Watson in pursuit of the Ripper, who is a sophisticated vampire who has fallen in love with the niece of Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Charles Warren. Amy Thomas' *THE DETECTIVE AND THE WOMAN* (2012; 204 pp., £9.99) sends Holmes and a widowed Irene Adler to Florida during the Great Hiatus, meeting Thomas Edison and foiling complicated villainy.
225. Also from MX Publishing is Dan Andriacco's *HOLMES SWEET HOLMES* (2012; 260 pp., £10.99), a murder mystery in which the victim is writer-actor-director Peter Gerard, whose latest film "221B Bourbon Street" had Holmes and Watson in New Orleans in the 1920s and triggered a storm of protest from Sherlockian purists, one of whom may or may not be the murderer.
226. The winners of Edgars awarded by the Mystery Writers of America this year included Michael Dirda's *ON CONAN DOYLE; OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING* (for best critical/biographical) and Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" (for best play).
227. "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" is an interview podcast by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder, and the latest episode (#41) runs 62 minutes and includes an interview with Lara Pulver, who plays Irene Adler in "A Scandal in Belgravia" (the first episode of the second series of "Sherlock", airing on PBS-TV on May 6). Listen to or download the podcast at <www.ihearofsherlock.com>; earlier episodes also are available, and there are no spoilers in Pulver's interview. It has been rumored that she was fully clothed during her interview, but Monty and Wolder weren't.
228. The Missing Three-Quarter has been to Japan. The manuscript, that is. The British Library sent "two major treasures" (the manuscript, and a copy of Shakespeare's First Folio) to Tokyo as highlights in an exhibition at the British Embassy, Apr. 23-25, promoting British culture and education.
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229. May 12 #1: July 15 is the deadline for registration for "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" (the Baker Street Irregulars' conference in Los Angeles on Aug. 30-Sept. 3), which will feature actors, producers, and directors, and presentations covering screen-writing, casting, costuming, sound, and lighting. And screening of several rare and recently-restored films. Details at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/losangeles2012.html>.
230. The Ironmongers Daily News (published almost daily by the Société Sherlock Holmes de France) reports "Sherlock Yack" (2011), a French animated television series with 52 13-minute episodes. You can see artwork and watch a few episodes at <www.vodgratuite.cm/go/tf1/sherlock-yack-1334640800>.
231. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Gladstone's in Long Beach on Apr. 25, when visitors attending the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists were welcomed by members of the local Sherlockian societies. An article on forensic geology and Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians appeared in the AAPG Explorer's April issue <www.aapg.org/explorer/2012/04apr/spotlight0412.cfm>. Our next dinners will be in Charlotte on Nov. 7, and in Pittsburgh on May 22, 2013.
232. Michael Procter died on May 3. He trained at the Royal Academy of Music in London and went on to specialize in Renaissance music; he was a performer, conductor, teacher, and editor and publisher, and his web-site's still active at <www.michael-procter.com>. Based in Germany, he was an energetic Sherlockian, this year founding the Sherlock Holmes Club of Carlsruhe; he also combined his two interests in an impressive monograph *MELANCHOLIA IN MUSIC: THE POSTHUMOUS MOTETS OF ORLANDUS LASSUS*, BY SHERLOCK HOLMES, published this year and available from Amazon in most countries.
233. Philip K. Jones' data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has more than 9,000 entries; previously hosted at Michael Procter's web-site, the data base is now available at Christopher and Barbara Roden's web-site <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm>.
234. Sherlockians who have attended the birthday festivities will recall, fondly or perhaps otherwise, West 44th Street institutions such as the Algonquin, the Iroquois, the Royalton, the Red Flame, and the N.Y. City Bar Association, will enjoy Alex Shoumatoff's long and interesting article "Positively 44th Street" in the June issue of *Vanity Fair* (alas, only a teaser's available at the magazine's web-site). There's history galore, and gossip and scandal, in the block between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, and Shoumatoff gives the reader a fine tour of the area.
235. Jon Lellenberg reports Arcadia Falcone's recent contribution to the Harry Ransom Center's "Cultural Compass" blog on "The Adventure of the Immortal Detective: Discovering Sherlock Holmes in the Archives" with a set of interesting images; they have a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual, Paget originals, manuscripts, and other nice material. You can read all about it at <www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/culturalcompass/tag/baker-street-irreglars>.
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236. May 12 #2: The Daily Telegraph reported (May 3) that Buckingham Palace insiders have said that Queen Elizabeth has taken part in a film that will be broadcast during the opening ceremony of the summer Olympics, bestowing a knighthood on James Bond (as portrayed by Daniel Craig). Jake Kerridge, the paper's crime critic, noted that two of Britain's most famous literary characters turned down knighthoods: one of them was James Bond, at the end of *THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN*, and the other was Sherlock Holmes, in "The Three Garridebs" (Kerridge also said that he didn't object to Britain "broadcasting to the world a film in which the monarch gives one of the country's highest honors to a bigoted manipulative satyromaniac"). You can watch the film when it airs on July 27.
237. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-4.html>, with news and offers of Sherlockiana from Classic Specialties, plus reports from other societies.
238. CBS-TV has scheduled its one-hour series "Elementary" (Mar 12 #3) at 10:00 pm on Thursdays in its fall line-up; you can watch a four-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?y=rDVSxNycKc>. There's also a more recent five-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff-XiZzJLxw>. A helpful hint for people in countries where CBS-TV isn't available on television (if you have access to the Internet): American networks tend to make their series available on-line; see <www.cbs.com> for a sample of what's available now.
239. "The next I heard of Frank," Hatty Doran told Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (in "The Noble Bachelor"), "he was in Montana, and then he was prospecting in Arizona, and then I heard from him from New Mexico." Our new stamps honor the 100th anniversary of statehood for Arizona and New Mexico; Montana's centennial was celebrated earlier (Jan 89 #5).
240. "Bloody Scotland", Scotland's first international crimewriting festival, Sept. 14-16 in Stirling, will have Ian Rankin as keynote speaker and many other writers on hand for the weekend event, which will include panels, workshops, a short-story contest, master-classes, and a Sherlock Holmes Dinner (on Sept. 15) with David Stuart Davies as the toastmaster. There's a web-site at <www.bloodyscotland.com>, and if you're asked for a password, it's [welcome].
241. George Anton's YouTube video "Sherlock Holmes" (Mar 12 #7), with Kevin Glaser as Holmes and Charles Simon as Watson, also is available commercially as a DVD (\$19.99) and from Amazon Instant Video (\$1.99).
242. Laurie R. King will be guest of honor at *Malice Domestic 25* (May 3-5, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Md.); it's a long-running conference for mystery writers and readers, and it offers a fine opportunity to meet your favorite authors (and get them to sign their books for you). Details will be

found (eventually) at <www.malicedomestic.org>, but you can register now (and that's advised if you want full registration including the Agatha banquet, at which attendance will be limited).

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243. May 12 #3: "Masterpiece" promoted the second season of "Sherlock" with an excerpt screening, Q&A, and autograph reception in New York on May 2, with Benedict Cumberbatch, co-creator Stephen Moffat, and producer Sue Vertue, and there were 10,000 on-line applications for the 400 seats at the preview. You can watch a 48-minute video of the Q&A session at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MltF5YNPac>. Rebecca Eaton said that filming for the third season will begin in early 2013, and the series will air in the U.S. in 2013.
244. Karen Murdock spotted the "Locations" section of Sherlockology, where you can find out where scenes were shot for all six episodes of "Sherlock" (you can click on "Series 1" or "Series 2" and then on scenes to find out what's where). And the British Academy of Film & Television announced its BAFTA Television Craft Awards on May 13, with "Sherlock" winning in three categories for "A Scandal in Belgravia": best editing/fiction, best sound: fiction, and best writer (Steven Moffat).
245. And "Sherlock" co-creator Mark Gatiss, who also plays Mycroft, has revealed that his Mycroft has a real-life inspiration: "I'd just auditioned to play Peter Mandelson in a TV film and we'd already discussed how reptilian and Mandelsonian we wanted Mycroft to be." Mandelson is a Labour Party politician who has had a colorful and checkered career; a trusted advisor to Tony Blair, Mandelson was twice a member of Blair's cabinet and twice resigned amid accusations of corruption, and there's much more about him in an entry at Wikipedia.
246. Plan well ahead: Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Alley Theatre from May 24 to June 23, 2013. The theater is at 615 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002 (713-220-5700) <www.alleytheatre.org>.
247. The Sell a Door Theatre Company will perform Tim Kelly's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Greenwich Theatre, July 2-8. Croom's Hill, London SE10 8ES, England (020-8858-7755) <www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk>.
248. "Sherlock Holmes awarded title for most portrayed literary human character in film & TV," Guinness World Records announced this month. According to Guinness, Holmes has been depicted on screen 254 times, by more than 75 actors, and Guinness adjudicator Claire Burgess commented that the title reflects Holmes' "enduring appeal and demonstrates that his detective talents are as compelling today as they were 125 years ago." The runner-up for the record was Hamlet, with only 206 appearances. But Holmes isn't the overall most portrayed literary character, according to Guinness: that title's held by the non-human Dracula who has been portrayed 272 times.
249. A novel that includes a papal exorcist in its list of characters promises to be interesting, and Gyles Brandreth's OSCAR WILDE AND THE VATICAN MURDERS (New York: Touchstone, 2012; 337 pp., \$14.00) certainly fulfills that promise; it's the fifth in his series featuring Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle as the detectives (Wilde, as always, is the better detective) in an imaginative mystery, narrated this time by Conan Doyle, that brings them to the Vatican in 1892. The next book in Brandreth's series will be OSCAR WILDE AND THE MURDERS AT READING GAOL.
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250. May 12 #4: The television series "House, M.D." completed its long run on 21 with a one-hour retrospective special ("Swan Song") that included a brief segment with a Sherlockian discussion by Hugh Laurie (Gregory House) and series creator David Shore, and the final episode ("Everybody Dies") ended with an interesting echo of the Canon. Shore has often acknowledged that Holmes was part of the inspiration for House; the series has included occasional allusions over the years, among them the number of House's apartment: 221B.
251. "An Indian Sherlock" is the title of a possible Indian film project, based on British author Tarquin Hall's series of novels about Vish Puri, a modern Punjabi detective described as "India's Most Private Investigator". Anand Tucker has been signed to direct the film, which may star Anil Kapoor, and there seems to be nothing Sherlockian about the film other than the title.
252. A one-hour version of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (commissioned by Jeremy Brett in 1988) will be performed at Theatre Asylum on June 9-24, during the Hollywood Fringe Festival. 6320 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90038 (323-962-1632) <www.theatreasylum-la.com>.
253. THE SECRET ARCHIVES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: Allison & Busby, 2012; 285 pp., £19.99) is June Thomson's latest collection of pastiches, with seven new stories; she started her series of collections with THE SECRET FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Dec 90 #5), and continues to entertain her readers. There will be an American edition in September.
254. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has noted a new film project: "Sherlock Holmes vs. Frankenstein" from Marteau Films Production, with filming scheduled to start this winter: "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson travel to Germany to investigate a strange case in the village of Darmstadt. Who is the mysterious scientist who digs up corpses and steals their limbs? Could these events be related to the nearby presence of Castle Frankenstein? Everyone is a suspect." Gautier Cazenave wrote the script and will direct, with Holmes and Watson played by Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox, who played the same characters in the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985). You can see a colorful poster at <www.holmes-frank.com>.
255. Filming has been completed on the new Russian television series "Sherlock Holmes" (Apr 12 #5); the eight two-part programs are scheduled for broadcast next year.
256. Enid Schantz died on Aug. 12. She and her husband Tom launched the Aspen Bookhouse in 1970 and went on to publish a series of reprints of early pastiches from their Aspen Press, many of which were imaginatively illustrated by Enid. They continued to sell and publish books from The Rue Morgue in Boulder, Colo., and were delighted to meet old and new friends and customers at Bouchercon, Malice Domestic, and Left Coast Crime.
257. Jennie Paton discovered that an Australian company (Madman Entertainment) has released Roger Moore's "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976) on a region 4 (PAL) DVD (AU\$19.95); it's available for the first time on DVD, and there is a special-feature audio-commentary interview with Moore recorded in Oct. 2011. Details at <www.madman.com.au/catalogue/view/16563>.
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258. May 12 #5: The BBC reported (Apr. 23) on the opening of the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone, where researchers can consult documents that date back to 699 AD; one of the items on display is a ledger that shows that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was fined £10/9s for driving his car more than 20 mph in the Folkestone area.
259. Charles Higham died on Apr. 21. He was a poet, journalist, critic, and an energetic celebrity biographer who specialized in Hollywood figures such as Errol Flynn, Charles Laughton, and Cary Grant. Higham described Flynn as a bi-sexual Nazi spy, and Grant as a wife-beating closeted homosexual; some of his obituaries noted that one critic suggested that Higham's biography of Howard Hughes was so salacious that Higham "had reached the point where most of his subjects have slept with one another." His THE ADVENTURES OF CONAN DOYLE: THE LIFE OF THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1976) was an exception: the book was not well researched and, without sex and scandal, it seemed to have bored its author.
260. "You Know My Methods: A Collector's Approach to the Sherlockian Canon" is the title of an exhibition at the Book Club of California in San Francisco from June 4 through Sept. 10; the exhibition celebrates the 110th anniversary of the publication of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and features rare items from the collection of Glen Miranker <www.bccbooks.org>.

261. I'm not aware of any Sherlockian connection for the prediction that the world will end on Dec. 21, but it's worth noting that Belgium has issued a souvenir sheet with five stamps that show a detail from the prophetic panel of the Mayan calendar. Why Belgium? Because the complete panel is in Brussels, on display at the Royal Museums for Art and History.
262. What's the most valuable modern Sherlockian periodical? A likely candidate is the first issue of *Playboy*, which included an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four"; it sold for 50¢ in Dec. 1953 and had a press run of 53,991 copies, and a copy sold at Heritage Auctions month for \$8,365 (including the buyer's premium). That's up nicely from the \$3,032 that a copy brought at an auction a few years ago (Sep 10 #6).
263. Christopher Boone, the narrator of Mark Haddon's award-winning best-seller *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME* (2003) is an autistic teen-ager who loves the Sherlock Holmes stories and turns detective himself; he will be played by Luke Treadaway in a dramatization by Simon Stephens at the National Theatre in London, July 24 through Sept. 12. There's more information at <www.nationaltheatre.org.uk>. Una Stubbs (Mrs. Hudson in the BBC's "Sherlock" mini-series, will play Mrs. Alexander.

264. May 12 #6: Scott Monty has reported that the Post-Meridian Radio Players' "Summer Radio Mystery Theatre" July 27-28 will offer new versions of three classic programs, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (adapted from the CBS Radio Mystery Theatre) in Somerville, Mass., on July 27-28. Details at <www.huboftheuniverseproductions.com>.
265. A high court judge heard arguments on May 23 in the Undershaw Preservation Trust's campaign to block conversion of Conan Doyle's home into flats (May 11 #3); the judge is expected to rule soon on whether the Waverly Borough Council properly considered a third-party offer to purchase the house.
266. There's a new version of the delightful parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007: it's a radio-theater adaptation that will be performed at the Bath Fringe Festival on June 4 <www.bathfringe.co.uk>. It was inspired by a performance with a live audience that was recorded for BBC Radio 4 in March; the program will air as the Saturday Drama on July 7. Nick Hern Books publish the original script and license it for amateur productions <www.nickhernbooks.co.uk>; the company also offers David Edgar's dramatization of Julian Barnes' novel *ARTHUR AND GEORGE*.
267. There was a flurry of publicity last month about the discovery in the John Murray Archives at the National Library of Scotland of Conan Doyle stories that were considered to be "not very good and not used as the quality was too poor." The stories, none of them unpublished, were found in a set of typescripts that likely were prepared for possible reprinting in *THE CONAN DOYLE STORIES* (1929); they've been republished since, in the volume of *UNCOLLECTED STORIES* (1982) edited by Richard Lancelyn Green.
268. "Forensic Firsts" begins on the Smithsonian channel on June 17 and the series offers an interesting look at how forensic sciences are used by detectives today <www.smithsonianchannel.com/site/sn/show.do?series=826>. They may even mention Sherlock Holmes.
269. Les Klinger reports that Ronald Unz has digitized *The Bookman* [London] and *The Bookman* [New York] the files are searchable, and of course contain much about Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle. <www.unz.org/Pub/BookmanUK> and <www.unz.org/Pub/Bookman>. Unz has digitized many other magazines that contain Sherlockiana and Doyleana.
270. "Good Bad Books" is the title of an essay by George Orwell in *Tribune* (Nov. 2, 1945) and reprinted *SHOOTING AN ELEPHANT AND OTHER ESSAYS* (1950); he acknowledges G. K. Chesterton for coining the phrase, which Orwell applies to "the kind of book that has no literary pretensions but which remains readable when more serious productions have perished." And his list of "obviously outstanding books in this line" includes "Raffles", "Dracula", "Uncle Tom's Cabin", and the Sherlock Holmes stories. Orwell had earlier written a Sherlockian parody "The Adventure of the Lost Meat-Card" for Eton College's *Election Times* (June 3, 1918), unmentioned in his essay, which can be read on-line at <www.orwell.ru/library/reviews/books/english/e-books>.

271. Jun 12 #1: The Undershaw Preservation Trust won its suit to prevent conversion of Conan Doyle's home into flats (May 11 #3) when a high court judge ruled that the Waverley Borough Council had not adequately met statutory requirements to pay special regard to the preservation of heritage assets and planning policy when it approved the developer's plans. The judge awarded £20,000 in legal costs to Trust founder John Gibson, and gave the Council time to consider whether to appeal; the Council later announced that it would not contest the decision, but Fossway, the developer, has decided to appeal.
272. Guy Ritchie is keeping busy while waiting to proceed with a third "Sherlock Holmes" film for Warner Bros. Trade journals report that he is working on a film version of "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and on a proposed new version of "Treasure Island" (both for Warner Bros.).
273. The Book Club of California has more information about its celebration of the 110th anniversary of the publication of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* at the club's web-site <www.bccbooks.org/exhibit.htm>. The exhibition runs through Sept 10, and Glen Miranker reports that the material on display includes manuscript pages, original artwork by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele, and Conan Doyle's Norwood notebook (1885-1896).
274. Philip K. Jones' data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has more than 9,200 entries; the data base is now available at Christopher and Barbara Roden's web-site <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm> and (with Philip's article "The Untold Tales--Analyzed") at Miguel Herrera Baena's web-site at <www.sherlock-holmes.es/database.php>.
275. Further to the item about Alex Shoumatoff's excellent article "Positively 44th Street" in the June issue of *Vanity Fair* (May 12 #1), Scott Monty has kindly provided a link to the article <www.tinyurl.com/75nen68>.
276. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-6.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including a tribute to Bob Burr accompanied by photographic proof that Bob does occasionally leave Peoria.
277. Qiu Xiaolong is the author of the political detective novel *DON'T CRY, TAI LAKE* (Minotaur, 2012), which was praised by Patrick Anderson in his review in the *Washington Post* (May 21); it's not Sherlockian, but Xiaolong reports that he was a teenager in China during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) when almost all literature was banned. He succeeded in borrowing a copy of the Sherlock Holmes stories from a friend, and to avoid getting into trouble read them concealed inside the red plastic cover of *QUOTATIONS OF CHAIRMAN MAO*. He has lived in the United States since 1988, and has a web-site at <www.qiuxiaolong.com>.
278. *Clothes on Film* <www.clothesonfilm.com> is an interesting web-site devoted to "examining costume and identity in movies; in May 2010 there was a twopart discussion by Chris Laverty of Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes" (2009), and this month a two-part discussion of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011), with input from the film's costume designer Jenny Beavan.

279. Jun 12 #2: The 8th Annual Convention of The Reichenbachian Cliff-Divers is to be held in Peoria on Aug. 15-17, according to an announcement in the June issue of the Gaslight Gazette (published by The Survivors of the Gloria Scott); details of one of the more unusual Sherlockian gatherings are available by e-mail from Dave Milner <openshaw@bellsouth.net>. It's possible that this is a rescheduling of the convention announced for May 11-13 in Succasunna, N.J., in a message to the Sherlock Holmes Social Network <www.sherlockholmes.ning.com>.
280. Danish artist Nis Jessen has applied Sherlockian quotations to some of the illustrations in his spectacular edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (Jul 05 #6), and you can see the results at his Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/7bf2dl9>. His own web-site is at <www.jessen-gallery.dk>, and copies of his book are available: contact his wife Florida at <florida-jessen@jessen-gallery.dk>.
281. It's not Sherlockian, but it's a fine book for collectors: Miles Harvey's THE ISLAND OF LOST MAPS: A TRUE STORY OF CARTOGRAPHIC CRIME (2000) explores the story of Gilbert Bland Jr., whose cartomania doesn't seem all that far removed from bibliomania. The author's web-site is <www.milesharvey.com>.
282. "Writing Britain: Wastelands to Wonderlands" is a major exhibition at the British Library through Sept. 25, examining "how the landscapes of Britain permeate great literary works"; the section on "Wild Places: Terror of the Wild" includes THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. There's an interesting web-site at <www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/writingbritain>.
283. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a set of stamps honoring four Great Film Directors: Frank Capra, John Huston, John Ford, and Billy Wilder, three of whom have Sherlockian connections. Billy Wilder directed "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), John Huston played Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), and John Ford (billed as Jack Francis) played Watson in "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), directed by his older brother Francis Ford, who also played Holmes.
284. "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" ended its run in theaters in the U.S. on Apr. 12 after 112 days on screens in 3,703 theaters, according to the Box Office Mojo web-site; the film's world-wide gross is now stands at \$543.8 million. "Sherlock Holmes" (the first Robert Downey Jr. film) ran for 126 days in 3,626 theaters in the U.S. and grossed \$524.0 million world-wide.
285. The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the summer issue has Susan Rice's discussion of "Lighthouses of the Past and Future" (about how young women have joined the Sherlockian world from the 1960s through the 2010s), and much more of interest; it's published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
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286. Jun 12 #3: An article in the Aberdeen Press & Journal (June 16) noted that Arthur Conan Doyle was born at 11 Picardy Place in Edinburgh, and that a plaque on another building on the street notes that on a certain date, on this very spot, nothing much happened. But the real focus of the article is on the building at 12 Picardy Place, where today one will find the Mark Greenaway Restaurant; Mark Greenaway earlier this year became the only Scottish chef to be awarded three rosettes from the Automobile Association for outstanding cuisine.
287. Anglofile is a blog by Leslie King, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment; she offers early reports on programs to come on PBS-TV and on BBC America at <anglofileplus.livejournal.com>; the blog's also on Facebook at <www.facebook.com/anglofileplus>
288. For those who don't already have the book (and there shouldn't be many of you), copies of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, edited by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley (May 07 #5) are available discounted to \$4.98 at <www.daedalusbooks.com>. Thanks to Tina Rhea for the report.
289. Janet Rudolph has announced that Anthony Horowitz's pastiche THE HOUSE OF SILK (Dec 11 #5) has been nominated for a Macavity Award (best mystery novel) from Mystery Readers International/Mystery Readers Journal. Winners of the awards (named for T. S. Eliot's creation in OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS) will be announced at Bouchercon in October.
290. Tumblr is an imaginative and useful web-site that at which people can post text, photos, links, music, and videos; it was founded in 2007 and now has more than 63 million posts a day in twelve languages, and of course some of the posts are from people who are "addicted to Sherlock." You can see what it's all about at <www.shaddicted.tumblr.com>.
291. "Enjoy the 100 Greatest Books of All Times and Never Have to Read a Word!" is the offer from the Library of Classics; for only \$99.00 you receive the books in audio format and an MP3 player, and one of the books is THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Go to <www.buytheclassics.com> to see the titles of all of the books.
292. Patricia Gore-Booth died on Feb. 2. She was born in Japan and educated in Australia, and returning to Japan when war broke out in Europe she went to work in the British Embassy assigned to work in Paul Gore-Booth's department. They were married in September 1940, interned by the Japanese, sent back to Britain, and then posted to the British Embassy in Washington, and she was with her husband during all his long diplomatic career, and during all his Sherlockian career. Their photograph, costumed as Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler during the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's first Swiss Pilgrimage, appeared in The Times on May 1, 1968.
293. Catherine Cooke reports that Abbey House still stands at the site of 221B Baker Street, with the central facade and clocktower preserved. According to the developer, the overall site has 92 luxury residential units and 40 affordable units, with underground car parking, and there's a nice photograph at <www.flickr.com/photos/ddtmmm/3909629026>.
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294. Jun 12 #4: "The Adventure of the Immortal Detective: Discovering Sherlock Holmes in the Archives" is the title of an interesting post by Arcadia Falcone to the Cultural Compass blog at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. The collection has some wonderful Sherlockian and Doylean material (including two pairs of his socks); you can read her post at <www.utexas.edu/opa/blogs/culturalcompass/2012/05/03/sherlock-holmes>, and the slide show is fascinating (there's a button to turn on captions).
295. ARMCHAIR MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a new collection of pastiches by Alan Downing, available (without charge) via the Internet as PDF and Kindle files at <www.sites.google.com/site/armchairmysteries>.
296. There will be some intriguing Conan Doyle material at auction on July 10 at Swords & Sables <www.sworder.co.uk/index.php?_a=viewBlog+blogId=17>. Mary Jakeman was working as a servant in Surbiton in 1909, when she applied for a position as lady's maid in the Conan Doyle household, and Conan Doyle's letter offering her the job ("The wages start at £26. The servants find their own beer or wine.") is included in the collection, along with other correspondence from the family (she left their employ in 1932) and photographs, and signed and inscribed books; she is mentioned in THE WANDERINGS OF A SPIRITUALIST (1921) and MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES (1924).
297. Richard Carpenter died on Feb. 26. He was acted on stage and television, and in the 1970s turned to writing for ITV and the BBC, becoming a popular and prolific screenwriter for children's television, including two of the four programs in the series "The Baker Street Boys" (1983).
298. Twickenham Film Studios has closed, one year short of celebrating 100 years of British film-making. Founded as St. Margaret's Studios in 1913, it was renamed in 1929 by the company's owners producer Jules Hagen and director Leslie Hiscott. Films made at Twickenham included the Beatles' "Help!"

- and "A Hard Day's Night", Michael Caine's "Alfie", Angela Lansbury's "The Mirror Crack'd", Meryl Streep's "The Iron Lady", and most of Arthur Wontner's Sherlockian films in the 1930s.
299. Further to the report (Dec 01 #4) on the "Hound of the Baskervilles effect" (the conclusion that fatal heart attacks and stress are linked in fact as well as fiction), Don Pollock has noted references to a "Hound of the Baskervilles pattern" <www.tinyurl.com/6nb6kp3>. It's a financial phenomenon, "when a pattern or anticipated behaviour in prices does not occur in spite of compelling recent evidence," and it seems to have been named by someone who thought that the dog that did nothing in the night-time was the Baskerville hound.
300. The latest Sherlockian audio from Big Finish is SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE PERfidious MARINER, on a CD (\$14.07) and as a download (\$7.99); PO Box 3787, Maidstone, Berks. SL6 3TF, England <www.bigfinish.com>. Nicholas Briggs stars as Holmes, and Richard Earl as Watson, with Michael Maloney as J. Bruce Ismay (the most hated man in England, blamed for the Titanic disaster); it's an intriguing mystery, and as always well-acted and recorded. There's a 30-minute podcast at the web-site, and downloadable copies of the company's monthly magazine Vortex, as well as information about their Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian recordings.
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301. Jun 12 #5: The "casting thread" is pervasive on the Internet, where people often imagine various actors playing various characters, and in 2009 Regan Payne, a Canadian free-lance writer and director, was inspired by the first Robert Downey Jr. film to propose imaginative combinations of actors and directors for never-made Sherlock Holmes movies for each decade from 1929 to 1999 (for 1939, for example, he had Michael Curtiz directing William Powell as Holmes and Buster Keaton as Watson). The entire blog can be read at <www.tinyurl.com/cdauzud>.
302. Alyson Kuhn has an interesting (and well illustrated) report on "The Case of the Sherlockian Miranker" at the Felt and Wire web-site on the exhibition "You Know My Methods: A Collector's Approach to the Sherlockian Canon" at the Book Club of California in San Francisco (May 12 #5); you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/6q6jnuw>.
303. Benedict Cumberbatch, interviewed by TVLine (June 14), said that "I'll always do 'Sherlock'--it's something I'm not going to give up on," and that "there's no reason for us to stop if it's still being adored and we still enjoy doing it." Cumberbatch also said that he'd like to see Holmes getting older: "We're starting quite young. It's rare to see Holmes and Watson at the beginning of their relationship; we usually join them in their mid-to-late 40s or 50s. I've got a way to go. I mean, I'm only 35."
304. And "Getting Sherlock Holmes Right Onscreen" is the title of a perceptive essay by Michael Sragow at the New Yorker's "culture desk" blog, where he has nice things to say about the Cumberbatch/Freeman series, and about the Rathbone/Bruce films <www.tinyurl.com/7cbsd7>.
305. Last month President Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to 11-time Grammy winner Bob Dylan, noting that "there is not a bigger giant in the history of American music" (the medal is awarded "for having made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to culture or other significant public or private endeavours." In 1963 Dylan refused appear on "The Ed Sullivan Show" when CBS refused to allow him to sing "The Talking John Birch Society Blues" (the song's lyrics include a mention of Sherlock Holmes).
306. Caroline John died on June 5. She began her acting career on screen at the age of 15, performed on stage, and was best known for her role as Liz Shaw in the "Doctor Who" television series. She also had a supporting role in "Madame Sara" in "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971), and played Laura Lyons in Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982).
307. Karen Murdock reports the Craig Calvert has constructed 1:6 scale diorama of the sitting room at 221B, and there are lots of photographs at his web-site at <www.bakerstreetdiorama.com>.
308. Phil Bergem continues his research into matters Doylean, and has written an excellent article on "Residences of Arthur Conan Doyle"; there are detailed descriptions, contemporary maps, coordinates, and latitudes and longitudes (so you can use Google Earth to see what locations look like now). It is available as a PDF file at the "Conan Doyle" group at Yahoo (the file name is "ACD-residences") and by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>.
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309. Jun 12 #6: Daniel Stashower's THE HOUDINI SPECTER (2000) has been reissued by Titan Books (\$12.95), completing his trio of "The Harry Houdini Mysteries"; as in THE DIME MUSEUM MURDERS and THE FLOATING LADY MURDER (Feb 12 #6), Houdini, beginning his career as an escapologist, succeeds in solving a well-written mystery. The books have passing mentions of Sherlock Holmes, and it's a pity there are only three in the series. The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
310. Christopher Challis died on May 31. He was a newsreel camera assistant as a teenager, and began his film career as a cinematographer in 1947 and went on to have a long association with Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, and became best known for his spectacular color work. He was director of photography for "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes".
311. An interesting photograph of Conan Doyle will be available at International Autograph Auctions on July 14-15; it's lot 529, estimated at £250-£350 <www.autographauctions.co.uk>. It shows a younger Conan Doyle, and is signed, and is particularly interesting because it was taken by Elliott & Fry of Baker Street (the photograph studio was at 56 & 56 Baker until 1919, when it moved to another location), and it is interesting because it shows that Conan Doyle was forgetful when he once told an interviewer that he did not recall ever having been in Baker Street in his life.
312. Anthony Horowitz is keeping busy: he's writing new episodes for "Foyle's War" and working on a sequel to his pastiche THE HOUSE OF SILK that will not feature Sherlock Holmes. "The recent Robert Downey films are great," Horowitz said to the Yorkshire Post (June 12), but they're what I call Indiana Holmes and, what I really want to do is explore the world in which he lives. So it's set in 1890 and the main character is Watson. By that time he and Holmes were already working together, but I want to look at Watson's partnership with another younger detective." Thanks to Randall Stock for the report.
313. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's Ironmongers Daily News has reported an amusing Russian parody of the Robert Downey Jr. and Benedict Cumberbatch versions of Sherlock Holmes at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlsHIBi_yZM>, and with English subtitles at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=v10idzSEN4Q>.
314. Michael Kurland's VICTORIAN VILLAINY (Rockville: Wildside Press, 2011) is a collection of reprints of four short stories about Professor Moriarty, and they are written with style, imagination, and humor; \$4.19 as a eBook, or \$15.99 with Kurland's THE TRIALS OF QUINTILIAN in a trade-paperback reprise of the old Ace Double format (Quintilian was an early crime-solver, in the time of the Emperor Vespasian). Wildside specializes in mystery, fantasy, and adventure, and their web-site's at <www.wildsidebooks.com>. Kurland's own web-site's at <www.michaelkurland.com>; THE INFERNAL DEVICE, his first Moriarty novel, has been dramatized by James Geisel as a one-act play, and had its world premiere this month in South Bend, Ind.
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Jul 12 #1:

315. Julian Barnes' *ARTHUR & GEORGE* (Sep 05 #5) was a novelized joint biography of Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji, well written and imaginative, and it was dramatized by David Edgar (Feb 10 #5); Edgar's script (London: Nick Hern Books, 2010; 131 pp., £8.99) offers a welcome opportunity to see how interesting and intelligent a good dramatization can be. The publisher also offers a script for the parody version of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* dramatized by Steven Canny and John Nicholson for Peepolykus (Apr 07 #3); the script (2012; 100 pp., £9.99) is delightful, and offers some pleasant surprises for those who have seen more recent productions of the play. The scripts are available from Nick Hern Books, 14 Larden Road, London W3 7ST, England <www.nickhernbooks.co.uk>.
316. Willis Frick reports happily that he now has a new URL for Sherlocktron, at <www.sherlocktron.com>; this should take care of problems people have been having when their ISPs blocked access to Sherlocktron at his previous host.
317. The summer issue of *The Magic Door* (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Al Dawson's account of research into a Conan Doyle letter (now owned by the Collection) along a trail that involved Oscar Wilde and his wife Constance, Peter Calamai's tribute to Conan Doyle's story "The Three Correspondents", and news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>. And the Friends will celebrate the centennial of "The Lost World" on Sept. 15, when Roy Pilot will deliver the 2012 Cameron Hollyer Lecture at the Library.
318. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced at the Lakewood Playhouse, Sept. 14 through Oct. 14. 5729 Lakewood Towne Center Boulevard, Lakewood, WA 87488 (253-588-0042) <www.lakewoodplayhouse.org>.
319. Laurie R. King's *GARMENT OF SHADOWS* (New York: Random House, 2012; 264 pp., \$26.00) is subtitled "A novel of suspense featuring Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes," and it lives up to its billing. The new novel is set immediately after *PIRATE KING* (Aug 11 #1), and opens with Russell in dire peril in Fez. She (and Holmes) wind up deeply involved in Moroccan colonial politics and tribal warfare, and encounter some old friends from earlier days. The next Mary Russell novel will be set in Japan (before *LOCKED ROOMS*), and you can read about her research, and other things, in her "Mutterings" blog at <www.laurierking.com>.
320. Fans of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes may want to attend a "twitter garden party" at the Russell-Holmes cottage on the South Downs on Aug. 19; details at <www.maryrussellholmes.com>, where you will find much more by and about Mary Russell, including a short story and some correspondence.
321. "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Place" will be the theme of the next conference in Minneapolis, on Aug. 9-11, 2013, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries; if you'd like to be on their mailing list, contact Gary Thaden <norwegianexplorers@gmail.com>.
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322. Jul 12 #2: "Campaigning for Statue of Sherlock" was the headline on a story in the *Sussex Courier* (July 6): Mike Tuffley wants to raise £50,000 for a statue of Sherlock Holmes to be erected in Crowborough; Tuffley believes that the statue will attract visitors from all over the world, and has created the Sherlock Holmes Trust Fund and is asking for donations (which can be made at any branch of Lloyds Bank).
323. Karen Murdock discovered an amusing custom vinyl decal for Macbooks, laptops, car windows, or other flat non-porous surfaces; created by Benjamin Daniels for Perfectly Aligned Decals, it measures 8.0 by 2.2 in. and costs \$5.00; two more Sherlockian designs available, and many others for non-Sherlockians <www.tinyurl.com/76odguy>.
324. Andy Griffith died on July 3. He was a musician, a monologist, and then an actor. He starred on Broadway in "No Time for Sergeants" in 1955, and acted in films and on television, starring as Andy Taylor of Mayberry on "The Andy Griffith Show" and as Ben Matlock on "Matlock"; in one episode of the Matlock series he said "I've always felt that the wrong Holmes is taught in law school; it ought to be Sherlock and not Oliver Wendell," and in another episode he delivered a two-minute courtroom summation of the plot of "The Red-Headed League".
325. The parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007 will be performed at the American Heartland Theatre, Jan. 11 through Feb. 13; 2450 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64108 (816-842-9999) <www.ahtc.com>.
326. Vinnie Brosnan is in search of information on two busts, of Holmes and Watson; they are 4 in. high, marked on the bases as made in London, and numbered. Who was the artist, and when were they sold, and by whom, and at what price? He's at <sherlockinla@cox.net> and would be happy to hear from anyone who can help.
327. Eric Sykes died on July 4. He began his entertainment career writing radio scripts, and went on to act and write on stage, screen, radio, and television, achieving renown both as a comic and character actor. He played Horace Harker in Granada's "The Six Napoleons" (1986).
328. "Solves that violin-case-need mystery that's been confounding you" is the slogan that Elderly Instruments uses for their elegant Baker Street Violin Case, spotted by Peter Ashman <www.elderly.com/accessories/items/221B.htm>.
329. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers an appreciative tribute to Fred Levin by Tim Johnson, a "50 Years Ago" look at Elliot Kimball by Julie McKuras, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.
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330. Jul 12 #3: Dale Fututani's new *THE CURIOUS ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES IN JAPAN* (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2011; 228 pp., \$12.99) is an interesting collection of stories set in 1892-1893, when Holmes is living in disguise as the guest of a Japanese doctor, and solves a series of mysteries; the stories have fine local flavor, and it's intriguing to see how Holmes reacts to a thoroughly different culture and environment. The author's web-site is at <www.dalefututani.com>.
331. Conan Doyle's 'DANGEROUS WORK': *DIARY OF AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE* offers a welcome look at some of his earliest writing: the illustrated journal that he kept on the whaler *Hope*; he celebrated his 21st birthday during the voyage, and the journal is full of detail on what that sort of adventure was like. There's also much humor, directed at himself as well as at others, and the journal is reproduced in facsimile, with a transcript, letters he wrote to his mother during the voyage, and later articles and stories that reflect his experiences on the ship. Edited and annotated by Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower, the 368-page book will be published soon by the British Library (£25.00) and the University of Chicago Press (\$35.00), and Randall Stock offers a fine discussion of the book, and the history of the journal (which was preserved in the family papers and is now owned by the British Library) at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/diary-arctic-adventure.htm>.
332. Jon and Dan will discuss and sign the book at the Centuries & Sleuths bookstore in Forest Park, Ill., on Sept. 29, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm; 7419 West Madison Street (708-771-7243).

333. Guy Adams had Holmes and Watson involved in the world of the supernatural in *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BREATH OF GOD* (2011), and he has turned to fantasy in *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARMY OF DR. MOREAU* (London: Titan Books, 2012; 284 pp., \$12.95), with an interesting celebration of both H. G. Wells and Conan Doyle. The author's web-site's at <www.guyadamsauthor.com>, and the publisher's at <www.titanbooks.com>
 334. Titan continues to reprint Sax Rohmer's stories about Fu-Manchu (who "makes Professor Moriarty seem an under-achiever," according to Max Collins); *THE HAND OF FU-MANCHU* (266 pp., \$9.95) is the third in the series, setting Sir Dennis Nayland Smith and Dr. Petrie against the Si-Fan.
 335. "The movies you want at your local theater" is the motto of Tugg, a company that will help you set up a screening of John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922) and many other (non-Sherlockian) films. There's more information at their web-site <www.tugg.com>.
 336. Sorry about that: *ARMCHAIR MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, the new collection of pastiches by Alan Downing (Jun 12 #4), is available (without charge) via the Internet at <www.sites.google.com/site/armchairmysteries>.
 337. Ernest Borgnine died on July 8. He acted on stage and television and then on film, winning an Oscar for his role in "Marty" (1955), and liked to say that "You don't have to be tall, dark, and handsome to be a movie star, but I was the first one to prove it." Alas, there's no photograph known, but he played Watson (with Dennis Allen as Holmes) on television in a skit in the "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" series in 1973.
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338. Jul 12 #4: Pam Verrey spotted *YOUNG MISS HOLMES, CASEBOOK 1-2* (New York: Seven Seas, 2012; 384 pp., \$16.99), the English translation of Kaoru Shintani's manga *CHRISTIE: HIGH TENSION* (2007-2008); Christie is the niece of Sherlock Holmes, and the book offers her versions of some of her uncle's recorded cases. There's a web-site with cover and interior artwork at <www.us.macmillan.com/youngmissholmescasebook12/KaoruShintani>; *CASEBOOK 3-4* is due later this year.
 339. Plan well ahead: Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Park Square Theater from June 7 through July 14, 2013; 20 West 7th Place, Minneapolis, MN 55102 (651-291-7005) <www.parksquaretheater.org>.
 340. Evan Lewis' "Skyler Hobbs and the Rabbit Man" (a comic mystery about a modern would-be Sherlock Holmes) was published in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* (Feb. 2010), and won the Mystery Writers of America's Robert L. Fish Memorial Award (for best first short story by an American author); his *Skyler Hobbs and the Garden Gnome Bandit* is in the Sept.-Oct. issue of *EQMM*.
 341. Jean M. White died on July 14. She started her career in journalism as a city desk reporter at the Washington Post in 1953, and worked for the paper for almost 30 years as a writer, editor, and reviewer, reporting often on Sherlockian books and on Sherlockians.
 342. Total-E-Bound Publishing, obviously aware of the success of *50 SHADE OF GREY*, has launched a series of Clandestine Classics, presenting "classics as they have never been seen before," and taking readers "behind the closed bedroom doors of our favorite, most beloved British characters. One of the classics, needless to say, will be *A STUDY IN SCARLET*, by A. C. Doyle and Sarah Masters, due later this year <www.total-e-bound.com>.
 343. Sherlock at the Olympics? Not quite, but almost, if you were watching the BBC on July 27, when they aired a nice 4-minute video about London narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch <www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvK1X_MdMN0>. Thanks to Debbie Clark for the report.
 344. The Conan Doyle material owned by Mary Jakeman, who worked for the family from 1909 to 1932, brought nice prices at *Swords* on July 10 (Jun 12 #4). The star of the sale was a signed copy of the first American edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, estimated at £400-800, which was sold for £3,900 at the auction.
 345. Smithsonian magazine's interesting "Design Decoded" blog had two Sherlockian entries in July, by Jimmy Stamp on "The Mystery of 221B Baker Street" (with splendid photographs of various recreations of the sitting-room), and by Sarah C. Rich on "The Deerstalker: Where Sherlock Holmes' Popular Image Came From" (with many images of items in Glen Miranker's collection); the blog is at <www.blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/2012/07>.
 346. Randall Stock continues to enhance the contents of his excellent "Best of Sherlock" web-site, where he has updated his census of original artwork by Sidney Paget: Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian illustrations, oil paintings, and watercolors <www.bestofsherlock.com/sidney-paget-original-art.htm>.
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347. Jul 12 #5: Christopher Boone, the narrator of Mark Haddon's award-winning best-seller *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME* (2003) is an autistic teen-ager who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories, and turns detective himself; the National Theatre in London has commissioned a dramatization of the novel, and the production has been recorded and will be broadcast to selected theaters around the world in September. Information on the play, and on dates and venues for the broadcast, can be found at <www.nationaltheatre.org.uk>.
 348. Sherlock at the Olympics? Actually, yes. If you count Wenlock, one of the two official mascots; the name honors the town in Shropshire that helped inspire the modern games. There are fiberglass statues of Wenlock in various costumes here and there in London, and Sherlock Wenlock can be found in Regent's Park. No word yet on whether there will be smaller figurines available as Olympic souvenirs.
 349. Kelly Blau has reported Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the children's book *SECRET AGENT SPLAT!*, by Rob Scotton (New York: HarperCollins, 2012; 40 pp., \$16.99); it's the latest title in his "Splat the Cat" series.
 350. Donald J. Sobol died on July 11. He was a journalist and then an author, best known for his "Encyclopedia Brown" series of mysteries, for which he won a special Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1976; Sobol described *Encyclopedia Brown* as "America's Sherlock Holmes in sneakers."
 351. The Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Newberry Library in Chicago on Sept. 29, starting at 9:00 am, is open to the public with no admission charge, and will feature Jon Lellenberg and Dan Stashower (on "Dangerous Work: Conan Doyle's Diary of Arctic Adventure"), Carter Lupton (on "Literary Icons of 1912: Prof. G. E. Challenger"), and Todd Rosenthal (on "Recreating Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street"). There's more information at <www.newberry.org/09292012-arthur-conan-doyle-sherlock-holmes-symposium>.
 352. Simon Ward died on July 20. He began his acting career on stage, and went on to star in films and on television; best known for his role as Winston Churchill in the film "Young Churchill" (1972), he also played Stephen Barrow in an adaptation of "The Leather Funnel" (1973) in a British series of "Great Mysteries" hosted by Orson Welles on ITV.
 353. YouTube's PBS Idea Channel has an amusing 6-minute video by Mike Rugnetta at <www.youtube.com/user/pbsideachannel?feature=watch> that offers his answer to the question "How Did Sherlock Holmes Pave the Way for 50 Shades of Grey?"
 354. Berkswell Grange, the childhood home of Jeremy Brett, is for sale, offered for £1.68 million; the 17th-century house, a few miles outside of Coventry, has six bedrooms, 15.7 acres of grounds, and a brick in the wall bearing a child's handprint, authenticated by Brett as his own. The estate agent is Knight Frank <www.knightfrank.com/str120124>.
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355. Jul 12 #6: Doc Watson died on May 29. Arthel Watson, blind almost from birth, became an outstanding acoustic guitarist, known for his baritone voice and vast repertoire of bluegrass, folk, country, and blues. He once explained that he acquired his nickname during a live radio broadcast in 1941 when the announcer asked for an easy nickname, and someone in the audience shouted "Call him Doc." His album "Elementary Doctor Watson!" was issued by Poppy Records in 1972 and has some fine tracks (but no Sherlockian significance other than the title).

356. The new series "Elementary" (with Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu as Holmes and Watson) debuts on CBS-TV on Sept. 27 at 10:00 pm (on the east coast). And there's now an official web-site at <www.cbs.com/shows/elementary>.
357. My birthday party on the Mall on July Fourth featured the usual spectacular fireworks, although not as spectacular as in San Diego, where a faulty computer fired off twenty minutes of fireworks in twenty seconds; fortunately there were no barges, and no one was hurt. It was also nice to receive a few birthday cards, and an especially nice telegram (delivered, of course, via the postal service, as telegrams are now).

358. Aug 12 #1: The BBC/PBS "A Scandal in Belgravia" has received 13 nominations for primetime Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, including outstanding mini-series or movie, lead actor (Benedict Cumberbatch), supporting actor (Martin Freeman), and writing (Steven Moffat); the awards are to be announced on Sept. 23. It's possible that the producers decided to submit "Sherlock" as a mini-series rather than as a drama series to avoid competition with the extremely-popular "Downton Abbey".
359. "Why didn't you tell me about this reading thing? This reading business, Dad, I really recommend it. Maybe you should give it a try." A quote from the younger generation in Australia, in an opinion piece by the Dad in the Sydney Morning Herald, July 28 <www.tinyurl.com/cdtkyas>, written after his son saw the "Sherlock" mini-series and discovered that it was possible to read stories about Sherlock Holmes.
360. There's also a blog by Lynnette Porter <www.tinyurl.com/c8ztnmh> reporting on an Internet survey that generated some interesting numbers from fans of the mini-series: more than 68 percent have read Conan Doyle's stories about Sherlock Holmes. And more than 70 percent read or write fanfiction, which suggests that at least a few people who prefer fanfiction to the originals, and possibly base their fanfiction on television or films, rather than the printed page.
361. Ely Liebow reported The Brigadier Gerard many years ago (Aug 95 #2); it is a pub in York, named not in honor of the hero of Conan Doyle's stories, but rather for the famous race horse (which was named for Conan Doyle's swashbuckling hero). It's not unique: there's another Brigadier Gerard in Eastleigh in Hampshire, and of course both can be found with a Google search.
362. Martin H. Greenberg died on June 25, 2011. He was the dean of the school of international studies at Florida International University, and the first director of graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and was a well-known editor in the fields of mystery, horror, and science fiction, winning an Ellery Queen Award from the Mystery Writers of America in 1995. Anthologies he helped edit included SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE (1986), THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1987), SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ORBIT (1995), HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS (1996), MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS (1999), MURDER IN BAKER STREET (2001), MURDER, MY DEAR WATSON (2002), GHOSTS IN BAKER STREET (2004), and SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA (2009).
363. The Wildclaw Theatre Company will present (one performance only) a dramatization of Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald" during its "Masque of the Red Death Gala Benefit" at the Strawdog Theatre on Sept. 15. The theater's at 3829 North Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613 <www.wildclawtheatre.com>.
364. THE LOST CASEBOOKS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Donald Thomas (New York: Pegasus Books, 2012; 873 pp., \$35.00), is a one-volume reprint of his earlier THE SECRET CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1997), SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE VOICE FROM THE CRYPT (2002), and THE EXECUTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2008); he is one of the better authors of pastiches, and this collection offers 18 of his stories, some based on true crimes and others new inventions.

365. Aug 12 #2: Those who have access to the Internet likely have seen images inspired by the "Believe in Sherlock" movement launched after the finale of the BBC's second "Sherlock" mini-series (Feb 12 #1); the person who launched the movement was Mika Hallor, and you can read more about her at <www.tinyurl.com/cqnbwfg> and in an article in the summer issue of The Baker Street Journal by three members of the Baker Street Babes (Taylor Blumenberg, Jenn Eaker, and Amy Thomas), along with an imaginative report (by Leslie S. Klinger) on his discovery of a press account of the memorial service for Sherlock Holmes in 1891.
366. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers. You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSJ, and information on the BSJ's other publications and activities.
367. Great Britain has honored the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens by issuing a set of attractive stamps that show some of his characters, drawn by Joseph Clayton Clarke. One of the stamps shows Mr. Pickwick, who is mentioned in the Canon: "There was something of Mr. Pickwick's benevolence in his appearance, marred only by the insincerity of the fixed smile and by the hard glitter of those restless and penetrating eyes." That's from Watson description of the worst man in London (Charles Augustus Milverton).
368. Bob Katz has noted an interesting "Literary Detectives Deathmatch" at the Huffington Post (Nov. 29, 2011) <www.tinyurl.com/coytdp9>. The challenge was posed by books editor Andrew Losowsky, and the responses are all his, including the imaginative finale between Miss Marple and Sherlock Holmes. You can click through the brackets to follow the battle.
369. NBC Today ran a four-minute segment titled "It's Elementary: On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes" from London on Aug. 2, with Keith Miller interviewing Roger Johnson and two of the Baker Street Babes (Kristina Manente and Katherine Ryan); you may still be able to see it at <www.tinyurl.com/cwnt98w>.
370. The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street have organized another "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze on Oct. 6 at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J. The organizers promise free handicapping, along with a warning: caveat bettor. Additional information is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net> and Kate Karlson <kkarlson@stny.rr.com>.
371. The Ironmongers Daily News (published almost daily by the Société Sherlock Holmes de France) reports a Spanish film "Holmes y Watson: Madrid Days" due for release by Atla Films on Sept. 7, with Gary Piquer as Holmes and José Luis Garci as Watson (in pursuit of Jack the Ripper). There's a two-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=U95o3Ee4Kno>. The film's listed at the Internet Movie Data Base and Wikipedia as "Holmes: Madrid suite 1890".

372. Aug 12 #3: "Join Sherlock Holmes at the Edgar Allan Poe Mystery Writers of America Awards Dinner" is the title of the 56-page dinner program published for the dinner on Apr. 26, and the contents include tributes by Dana Stabenow, Peter Abrahams, Donna Andrews, Jan Burke, Kristine Kathryn Rusch, Carole Nelson Douglas, Lyndsay Faye, Steve Hockensmith, Leslie S. Klinger, Laurie R. King, Toni L. P. Keiner, David Wright, Barbara Peters, SJ Rozan, and David Wright. The bad news is that it appears that the only way to acquire a copy is to beg, borrow, or steal one from a member of the MWA.

373. Smithsonian magazine's interesting "Design Decoded" blog (Jul 12 #4) continued its Sherlockian entries with Jimmy Stamp's "Sherlock Holmes and the Tools of Detection" and "A Modern Sherlock Holmes and the Technology of Detection" and Sarah C. Rich's "The Architecture of Memory"; you can find the entire series at <www.blogs.smithsonianmag.com/design/2012/08>.
 374. Maria Konnikova, who is working on a Ph.D. in psychology at Columbia University, has written Sherlockian essays for to the Scientific American blog (Sep 11 #6) and elsewhere, and you can read them all (and other non-Sherlockian pieces) at her interesting web-site <www.mariakonnikova.com>.
 375. Philip José Farmer's imaginative science fiction included the world of the Wold Newton Family, which included Sherlock Holmes, Tarzan, and many other fictional characters, and THE OTHER LOG OF PHILEAS FOGG (1973) demonstrated just how complicated the affairs of the Family could be; dedicated to H. W. Starr, it included a reprint of Starr's article "A Submersible Subterfuge, or Proof Impositive" (first published by The Sons of the Copper Beeches). The book has been reissued (London: Titan Books, 2012; 306 pp., \$9.95) with a helpful afterword and chronology by Win Scott Eckert, and the new edition is also dedicated to the members of The Hansoms of John Clayton of Peoria (where Farmer lived for many years). Titan plans to publish more titles in the Wold Newton series, and their web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
 376. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club", previously scheduled at the Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Md., May 29-June 23, 2013, has been cancelled; the theater's new artistic director decided that Gina Gionfriddo's comedy "Becky Shaw" was more to his taste.
 377. Carole Nelson Douglas (author of the Irene Adler series) will be inducted into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame on Oct. 19. Founded by the Friends of the Fort Worth Library in 2004, the Hall of Fame "honors authors whose body of work enhances Texas' literary heritage, is original and first published in this country, and has already been recognized for its literary significance."
 378. Edinburgh's was recognized as the first "world city of literature" (Aug 04 #5) by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization), and there are others now, including Iowa City, whose City of Literature web-site at <www.cityofliteratureusa.org/node/1> displays city resident Al Dawson's article in the latest issue of The Magic Door (Jul 12 #1). Iowa City also claims Nicholas Meyer, who graduated from the University of Iowa's Department of Theatre Arts and went on to write THE SEVENPERCENT SOLUTION and other pastiches.
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379. Aug 12 #4: Darlene Cypser's THE CONSULTING DETECTIVE TRILOGY: PART I: UNIVERSITY (Morrison: Foolsap & Quill, 2012; 323 pp., \$14.99) is a sequel to her THE CRACK IN THE LENS (Mar 11 #6); Holmes is now at university (Cambridge) and beginning the studies that led him to his career as a detective, and "The Gloria Scott" is only one of the mysteries he solves. Again, there's nice local flavor, interesting psychology, and good writing. Two more volumes are to come, covering the years until Holmes meets Watson.
 380. ANOMALOUS, by Samuel Williams, Jr. (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 220 pp., £9.99), is a pastiche by a black author who involves Holmes and Watson with Steve Dixie and Lucy Hebron, and with Jack Johnson, Big Jim Colosimo, Johnny Torrio, Frankie Yale, Al Capone, in Chicago and in London.
 381. William Windom died on Aug. 16. He had a long career as a character actor in films and on television, including playing Dr. Seth Hazlitt in more than episodes of the series "Murder, She Wrote". He also was Watson in a California Artists Radio Theatre production in the 1990s of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" with David Warner as Holmes and Samantha Eggar as Alice Faulkner.
 382. The CART broadcast of "Sherlock Holmes" is available on CD (\$20.00) and as an MP3 download (\$10.00) at their web-site <www.cartradio.com>, along with their broadcast of Conan Doyle's "Selecting a Ghost" (\$15.00/\$7.50) (Jul 05 #1).
 383. More Olympics: "26 Miles" is a new radio play written by Anthony Sergeant for the Wireless Theatre Company <www.wirelesstheatrecompany.co.uk>; it's fact and then fantasy about the Marathon in 1908, and Conan Doyle is mentioned twice. You can listen or download (there's no charge) at their web-site, where you'll also find their amusing "Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back!" (Sep 11 #3).
 384. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-7.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including a set of photographs from the Gathering of Southern Sherlockians in Chattanooga in April.
 385. "There were one hundred and forty-three diamonds of the first water," Jonathan Small explained (in "The Sign of the Four"), "including one which has been called, I believe, 'the Great Mogul.'" The Great Mogul also was the title of any of the Muslim emperors of India from 1526 to 1857, during what is called the Mughal Empire. "Mughal India: Art, Culture, and Empire" will be on display at the British Library from Nov. 9 through Apr. 2. There's an illustrated announcement at <www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions>, and if you would like to see some of the Mughal treasures in the British Museum, there is an interesting web-site at <www.mughalindia.co.uk>.
 386. Mary Loving has noted an announcement in the Marshfield News Herald (Aug. 13) that the University of Wisconsin/Marshfield/Wood County will present a "Sherlock Holmes learning cluster" in the fall semester, with three interconnected courses, a lecture series open to the general public, and a film series, plus a community read of "The Hound of the Baskervilles". There's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/96asmq4>.
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387. Aug 12 #5: Robert E. Robinson ("The Hansom Cab") died on Aug. 11. He was an organic chemist and co-founder and president of Lindau Chemicals, and enthusiastic about classical music, opera, and Sherlock Holmes; he was program chairman for The Hansom Wheels of Columbia and wrote and he produced many plays for the society. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
 388. The A. D. Players plan to produce Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the Grace Theatre, Sept. 5-Oct. 7. 2710 West Alabama Street, Houston, TX 77098) (713-526-2721) <www.adplayers.org>.
 389. If you have enjoyed seeing jellyfish in aquariums and think you'd like to have some of your own, they're available from Jellyfish Art, with tanks and food; they're not inexpensive, and the varieties offered do not include the lion's mane, but the company's web-site is at <www.jellyfishart.com>.
 390. The Pittsburgh Irish & Classical Theatre will present Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" at the Charity Randall Theatre on Dec. 4-21, 2013. 4301 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (412-561-6000) <www.picttheatre.org>.
 391. Michael Hecht will appear in "What I Learned from Sherlock Holmes" at the Stoughton Opera House on Oct 3. 381 East Main Street, Stoughton, WI 53589 (608-877-4400) <www.tinyurl.com/4bhbo8y>; according to the publicity, "Local visual and literary artist Michael Hecht explores the times and artistic influences that gave birth to the great detective," and Hecht's personal view is expressed through the writings of Poe, Darwin, Wilde, and great events including Krakatoa to the Oxford dictionary; visual pieces and music will also be utilized to tell this story." Thanks to Tom Drucker for spotting this unusual event, which is open to the public, with a free-will donation requested.
 392. "Sherlock Holmes--A Study in Fear" is a new play, written by John Goodrum (based on "The Final Problem"), with Nicholas Briggs starring as Sherlock Holmes, to be performed on tour in Britain by the Rumpus Theatre Company from Sept. 11 to Oct. 27 <www.rumpustheatrecompany.co.uk/future.htm>.
 393. More Sherlock Holmes at the Olympics: Kelly Blau noted a report in the N.Y. Times (Aug. 7) that the Kazakhstan women's synchronized swimming team (Anna Kulikina and Aigerem Zhexembinova) performed to music from "Sherlock Holmes" (the Robert Downey Jr. film); Zhexembinova explained that "we pretended to make pistols with our hands." Alas, they didn't qualify for the finals.

394. Finally, I've not heard from anyone who observed a Sherlockian quote amid all the newsprint that was used in the set designs during the closing ceremonies; of course we couldn't see it all watching NBC-TV, and what we did see wasn't all that legible.
395. Grubwithus (a social-networking web-site) will host Sherlock-themed dinners tied to the upcoming CBS-TV series "Elementary" on Sept. 13 in ten cities (New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia, Boston, Seattle, Dallas, and Atlanta) <www.tinyurl.com/8wvhw2f>; the meal (with an appropriate menu) costs \$25.00 and includes a "free DVD screener" of the show.

396. Aug 12 #6: The Exhibits Development Group has announced additional venues for "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction", an interactive exhibition that will tour science museums starting in 2013 (Apr 12 #1); the tour begins at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland, Oct. 10, 2013-Jan. 5, 2014, continuing at the Center for Science & Industry in Columbus, Feb. 6-Sept. 8, 2014, and then at the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science, Oct. 9, 2014, to Jan. 4, 2015, with an additional stop at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., June 11-Sept. 6, 2015. Visit <www.exhibitsdevelopment.com/SherlockHolmes.html> for additional information about the exhibition.
397. Colin Mochrie, who appeared in the improv show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and is now on "Trust Us with Your Life" on ABC-TV, has written a book "Not Quite the Classics" due this fall from Penguin. "I take the first and last line of 12 famous novels and make up a different middle," he told USA Weekend (Aug. 3-5). "One is based on 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'; my story is how Sherlock Holmes decided he wants to be a stand-up comedian."
398. Darlene Cypser has reported the web-site goodreads, where there is a page <www.tinyurl.com/9yndugd> allowing people to rank their favorite Sherlockian pastiches. Not many people seem to be voting, although of course that may change as more Sherlockians start visiting the web-site; at the moment the winner (with 21 votes) is Luke Benjamin Kuhns' THE UNTOLD ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION second (with 19 votes). Another list (Beyond Conan Doyle--Best of the Continuing Cases of Sherlock Holmes) <www.tinyurl.com/9m8pvse> has different results.
399. He's back! The statue of Sherlock Holmes is once again on view in Picardy Place in Edinburgh. Removed in 2009 because it blocked construction of a new tram line (Jul 09 #4), the bronze statue was commissioned by the Federation of Master Builders to mark its 50th anniversary in 1991, and has been reinstalled near the site of the house where Conan Doyle was born.
400. An intriguing item is coming up for auction at the Rock Island Auction Company on Sept. 9: the Waterloo Bravery Medal Awarded to Corporal Brewster, estimated at \$3,500-6,500. It's a silver medal presented to Corporal Brewster from the officers of the Coldstream Guards, in fine condition, and the author of the catalog description was not able to confirm the link between the medal and Conan Doyle's character in "A Straggler of '15" (further research, the catalog notes, "could provide some interesting results"); there is more information at <www.rockisland.com/viewitem/aid/56/lid/3432>.
401. The web-site Badass Digest has reported (Aug. 14) that Paramount has asked Chris Columbus to "steer" a remake of their "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); the original film, directed by Columbus, starred Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox and had a total domestic gross of \$19.7 million. "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" had a domestic gross of \$39.6 million its first weekend. Paramount's plans likely fall into the "wouldn't it be a good idea" category of copycat films such as Columbia Pictures' announcement (Jul 08 #3) of a film starring Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson.

402. Sep 12 #1: The London Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games is now auctioning memorabilia in hopes of recovering some of the £9.3 billion cost of the Games; the imaginatively decorated statue of Sherlock Wenlock (Jul 12 #5) has already been sold, for £6,520. The folks at Sherlockology have kindly posted photographs and an explanation of the 13 references to the Canon displayed on the statue <www.tinyurl.com/8m7c9kr>.
403. And there is one last note on the Olympics: viewers of the closing ceremonies will recall seeing sheets newsprint with quotations from the works of literary and cultural figures. One of them was Conan Doyle (represented by a quote from "The Hound of the Baskervilles"); this was not visible during the broadcast on NBC-TV in the U.S., and no one has reported seeing it in the U.K., and (alas) there seems to be no archive of official photographs of the more than 100 quotations.
404. Stuart M. Kaminsky's play "The Final Toast" (2008) will be performed by the St. Jude's Players Nov. 14-24. St. Jude's Hall (444 Brighton Road, Brighton, SA 5048, Australia (08-8296-2628) <www.stjudesplayers.asn.au>.
405. The official launch party for Laurie R. King's GARMENT OF SHADOWS (Jul 12 #1) was held this month at the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Phoenix, and there is a 90-minute video at <www.livestream.com/poisonedpen/LRK> of Laurie interviewed by Poisoned Pen proprietor Barbara Peters.
406. The Hedgerow Theatre will present Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" (1978) from Oct. 4 to Nov. 5. 64 Rose Valley Road, Rose Valley, PA 19063 (610-565-4211) <www.hedgerowtheatre.org>.
407. "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" (the conference presented by the UCLA School of Television, Film & Theater and The Baker Street Irregulars over the Labor Day weekend) was thoroughly delightful. The speakers included John Landis and director-screenwriter Nicholas Meyer ("From Paper to Celluloid: Adapting Holmes for the Screen"), directors John Musker and Ron Clements ("The Great Mouse Detective"), author Lyndsay Faye ("The Women: Sex and Success in the Canon, the BBC, and Warner Brothers"), film historian Russell Merritt ("How Holmes Crashed the Silents Without His Boswell and Fell to Moriarty"), lawyers Betsy Rosenblatt and Jonathan Kirsch ("Intellectual Property and Copyright"), and many others, and had a chance to see a true film rarity (Eille Norwood's "The Sign of Four" accompanied by expert Philip Carli on piano) and the pilot episode of "Elementary" (with producer Rob Doherty on hand to tell stories and answer questions).
408. Those who want to know more about the conference can read tweets by Lyndsay Faye and others; just go to <www.twitter.com> and search for #UCLASherlock or @lyndsayfaye.
409. Mary Burke reports that Condé Nast Traveler offers a "Literary World Tour" of "7 Famous Authors' Homes You Can Visit" <www.tinyurl.com/9pb6jjd>. The list includes The Sherlock Holmes Museum ("Okay, so Sherlock Holmes is neither a writer nor a real person. But the character, created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, remains one of the literary world's most famous").

410. Sep 12 #2: The animated movie "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" (Mar 12 #6) now has a director: John Stevenson, who directed "Kung Fu Panda". Elton John's Rocket Pictures is producing the film, and there are reports the production will start early next year, for a release in 2014. Gnomeo and Juliet enlist the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, to investigate why gnomes are disappearing from England's suburban gardens.
411. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" can be seen at the Nashville Children's Theatre through Oct. 7 (25 Middleton Street, Nashville, TN 37210) (615-252-4675) <www.nashvillechildrenstheatre.org>; and at the Repertory East Playhouse through Oct. 20 (24266 Main Street, Newhall, CA 91321) (611-288-0000) <www.repeastplayhouse.org>.

412. "The Virgin and the Book Dealer" is the theme for this year's NYC Vintage Paperback & Pulp Fiction Expo at the Holiday Inn (440 West 57th Street in New York) on Oct. 14; it's organized by Gary Lovisi (Sherlockian author and editor), and the guest authors will include Sherlockian pastichists Carolyn Bugge and Marvin Kaye <www.gryphonbooks.com>.
 413. Jerry Nelson died on Aug. 23. He worked as a puppeteer with Bil Baird and then went to work for Jim Henson, creating Sherlock Hemlock and many other memorable muppet characters on "Sesame Street" and "The Muppet Show".
 414. Betty G. Birney's MYSTERIES ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY (New York: G. P. Putnam's Son, 2012; 146 pp., \$14.99) is a pleasant book for young readers; Humphrey is a hamster (in deerstalker on the dust jacket) who resides in room 26 of Longfellow School, and listens as the class learns about "an unspeakably smart detective named Sherlock Holmes" and does some detecting on his own.
 415. "The Murder of the World's Most Famous Detective" was an interesting pastiche published in 1908 (as "L'Assassinat de plus Célèbre Détective"), the first in a series of "fascicules" written by Antonin Reschal about the exploits of "Miss Boston: La seule détective-femme du monde entier"; the most famous detective was indeed Sherlock Holmes, and Miss Boston, with the help of Dr. Watson, captures the murderer. THE ADVENTURES OF MISS BOSTON: THE FIRST FEMALE DETECTIVE (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2012; 306 pp., \$22.95) is a collection of eleven stories, translated by Nina Cooper, who also wrote an informative introduction. Miss Boston was of course not the only female detective in the entire world at the time, and Reschal knew (or cared) very little about American geography; Miss Boston's adventures take place in a New York that few of his readers had ever visited.
 416. The publisher <www.blackcoatpress.com> also offers a nice list of books by Maurice Leblanc (and pastiches by others) about Arsène Lupin, including reprints of Sherlockian stories in Leblanc's THE PHANTOM BLONDE and THE HOLLOW NEEDLE in a new collection THE MANY FACES OF ARSENE LUPIN.
 417. The Los Angeles Times web-site has an interesting set of photographs titled "Sherlock Holmes: Revealing the Detective's Place in Pop Culture", and it's well worth taking a look <www.tinyurl.com/coorjbr4>, because they have come up with some unusual items, including a reference to the Canon in the lyrics of the song "Waiting for Sex" by the English synth-pop duo Erasure.
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418. Sep 12 #3: "The Art of Jonathan Barry" was exhibited this month at the No Grants Gallery in Dublin; Barry specializes in painting scenes from literary classics and has just turned his attention to the Canon. You can see his portrait of Sherlock Holmes (in full color) in an article noted by Karen Murdock in the Irish Times (Sept. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/9o5bn6b>.
 419. Karen Murdock spotted a report that Benedict Cumberbatch will make a guest appearance on the next season of "The Simpsons" in an episode titled "Love Is a Many-Splintered Thing", playing both the British Prime Minister and a snake-like character; he was in Los Angeles for four months shooting "Star Trek 2" and asked the series producers if he could have a cameo role. And there was a report in the Daily Express (Sept. 8) that the next season of "Sherlock" will be the last, because Cumberbatch and Freeman are enjoying flourishing film careers. "It's a question of schedules," an unidentified source told the paper, "they will no doubt be signing off in style."
 420. "Sherlock Holmes and a Most Irregular Tea Party" is an "interactive drama" being presented by the Milwaukee Entertainment Group at the Brumder Mansion through Oct. 14; 3046 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53208 (414-388-9104) <www.milwaukeeentertainmentgroup.com>.
 421. Stephanie Watson's ROBERT DOWNEY JR.: BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE STAR (Minneapolis: ABDO, 2012; 112 pp., \$23.95) is part of ABDO's "Contemporary Lives" series (which also includes Justin Bieber, Eminem, Lady Gaga, Jay-Z, Kim Kardashian, Taylor Swift, and Justin Timberlake); it's written for younger read-, with many illustrations, and with two pages on Downey's "Sherlock Holmes". The publisher's web-site's at <www.abdopublishing.com>.
 422. Lloyd Rose spotted an amusing Sherlockian birthday cake, which you can see in full color at "Police Boxes and Death Frisbies...and Aeroplanes Too" on Tumblr <www.tinyurl.com/8z3e284>.
 423. Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (62 pp.) celebrates the founding of the society with a series of reminiscences about the early days, and about founders that included Steve Clarkson and Paul Churchill (the third founder, Rod McCaslin has contributed his own essay), and Matt Rutkowski's winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, named in honor of the late Steve Clarkson and sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md. The cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).
 424. Sorry about that: if you are planning to see Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" at the Park Square Theater next year (Jul 12 #4), the theater is in St. Paul, not Minneapolis.
 425. The panels have been announced for Bouchercon in Cleveland on Oct. 4-7, and one of them is "Elementary My Dear Cleveland" (How Sherlock Holmes Is Still Influencing Fiction Today) with Les Klinger, Michael Robinson, Dan Andriacco, Laurie King, Sara Paretsky, and Dan Stashower). Laurie will also be on a panel on "Our Inspirations" (What Books/Plays/ Films/TV Shows/Music Made Us the Writers We Are Today?). Go to <www.bouchercon2012.com> for the complete schedule.
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426. Sep 12 #4: The delightful parody "The Hound of the Baskervilles" written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007 is being performed by the Virginia Repertory Theatre at the Hanover Tavern until Nov. 4. The tavern is at 13181 Hanover Court Courthouse Road, Hanover, VA 23069 (804-282-2620), and the company's web-site is at <www.va-rep.org>.
 427. Karen Murdock noted a report that the Royal Western India Turf Club's "Live Legend Plate" was run at Pune on Sept. 9. Snow Mountain won the race, with Persian finishing second and Theology third, with Sherlock Holmes fourth. Sherlock Holmes is a three-year-old gelding, and you can see the race results at <www.racingpulse.in/Code/rupdate.aspx?pgId=34670>; there also is video at <www.indiarace.com/fullvedio.aspx?venue=Pune&date=09/12/2012>.
 428. The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the fall issue offers Bill Vande Water's report on his discovery of the ASH Constitution and Buy-Laws (now published some years after his report at one of their dinners), and Judith Freeman's refutation of the spurious document, accompanied by a reprinting (for the first time since 1975) of the actual ASH Bylaws (there seems never to have been an ASH Constitution). The Muse is published quarterly; \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
 429. "Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" is a new play-reading series scheduled next year; it's a Sunday-afternoon series of readings by professional actors in a concert-hall venue in Brentwood, Calif., curated by Les Klinger. Plays read in the first season will include Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's dramatization of "The Speckled Band". The web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com>.
 430. The Postal Service has celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of William S. Porter, who adopted the pseudonym "O. Henry" while an inmate at the Ohio State Penitentiary and went on to become a successful author. His Sherlockian parodies include "The Adventures of Shamrock Jolnes" (1911)

- and "The Detective Detector" (1917). And if you've ever wondered what that initial abbreviated, there's an answer, from O. Henry himself, in the N.Y. Times (Apr. 4, 1909): A newspaper once wrote and asked what the O stands for, and he replied, 'O stands for Olivier, the French for Oliver.'
431. "Cosplay" is an aspect of modern culture that has its own entry at Wikipedia; it's a shortening of "costume play" and is described as a type of performance art in which participants don costumes and accessories to represent a specific character or idea. Cosplayers often interact to create a subculture centered on role play. A broader use of the term applies to any costumed role play in venues apart from the stage, regardless of the cultural content.
432. If that sounds familiar, it certainly should: Sherlockians have been doing that for decades, especially The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, which has just returned from its latest pilgrimage to Switzerland. There was a report at the N.Y. Times on Sept. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/9c4bfwz>, and there is video from the BBC at <www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-19598997>.
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433. Sep 12 #5: Don Libey's THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (San Francisco: Campbell & Lewis, 2012; 132 pp., \$15.00) is an interesting approach to the Canon: the book was written by Holmes in 1929, after Watson's death, and it turns out that there were many things that Watson invented, including their address in London and the name of their landlady; the voice of Holmes is authentic, and his account of his life and career is intriguing.
434. Watson's Tin Box will host the sixth "Scintillation of Scions" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Hanover, Md., June 7-9, 2013; it's an entertaining gathering, and details are available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <www.scintillation.org>. They have moved to a new venue because they outgrew the old one, and registration is limited to 100.
435. John Addy's SHERLOCKIAN PICTURE PUZZLES: A MONOGRAPH ON ELIOT KEEN'S 1905 ILLUSTRATIONS (2012; 28 pp.) offers a fascinating look at puzzles published in the N.Y. Herald and other American newspapers; they're a type of rebus picture puzzle, and they appeared at a time when puzzles were quite different than they are today (the first "word-cross" puzzle appeared in the N.Y. World in 1913). Created for children, they will challenge today's adults. The book is available from The Musgraves (Anne Jordan, Hallas Lodge, Greenside Lane, Cullingworth, Bradford BD13 5AP, England) and costs £7.50 (UK)/£10.00 (Europe)/\$25.00 (US+Canada)/\$30.00 (rest of world), all postpaid.
436. "The Life and Times of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Creator (Literary Agent) of Mr. Sherlock Holmes" will be the theme for the next "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 10:00 to 1:00 on Nov. 3; the event is sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, the library is at 400 Cathedral Street, and there is no charge to attend.
437. The Postal Service has honored Edgar Rice Burroughs and Tarzan; "Tarzan of the Apes" was first published in 1912. Philip José Farmer explained in TARZAN ALIVE (1972) that Tarzan was related to Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, as well as many other members of the Wold Newton family, which originated when a radioactive meteor landed in Wold Newton, England, in the year 1795. The family's web-site <www.pjfarmer.com/woldnewton/Pulp.htm> has a fine introduction by Win Scott Eckert, and an image of Farmer's amusing calling card.
438. "It is said that one measure of the popularity of a public personality is the number of rumours and urban legends that have grown up around him" is how Cliff Goldfarb begins his article on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Dorando Affair" in the 2012 issue of the Journal of Olympic History. He offers a definitive history (and refutation) of the oft-repeated story that Conan Doyle assisted Dorando across the marathon finish line at the Olympics in London in 1908, tracking the story back to 1948. Copies of the journal are available from Anthony Bijkerk <tony.bijkerk@planet.nl>.
439. Cliff also has an interesting article on "Winston Churchill and Arthur Conan Doyle" in *Finest Hour: The Journal of Winston Churchill* (summer 2012), explaining the relationship between the two "Great Britons". The magazine costs \$5.95; Box 740, Moultonborough, NH 03254 <www.winstonchurchill.org>.
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440. Sep 12 #6: The three-page manuscript of Conan Doyle's "Mr. Sherlock Holmes to his Friends" went to auction at Freeman's in Philadelphia on Sept. 20, estimated at \$5,000-8,000. The essay was published in *The Strand Magazine* (Mar. 27) as "Mr. Sherlock Holmes to His Readers" and revised and reprinted as the preface to THE CASE BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; Randall Stock has provided details on the manuscript, and on other items in the auction, at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/sherlock-friends-ms-freemans.htm>. The manuscript sold for \$65,000 (plus buyer's premium, for a total of \$80,500).
441. "Sherlock" co-creator Steven Moffat offered a hint about the second season of the series: "The critical words, I'd say, would be--Adler, Hound, Reichenbach." (Oct 10 #7). The teaser words for the third season are Rat, Wedding, and Bow (reported by the Guardian from the Sherlock Holmes Masterclass in Edinburgh on Aug. 24). Shooting for the new season is expected to begin in January, for broadcast in August (producer Sue Vertue is "determined" to close the gap between broadcast dates in Britain and the U.S.). Speculation on the teaser words is rife, of course; Benedict Cumberbatch marrying Lara Pulver is low on the list of explanations for Wedding.
442. And Pulver, who was seen (to put it mildly) as Irene Adler in "A Scandal in Belgravia" but wasn't at the Masterclass, has denied rumors on the blogosphere that she will be the first woman to play Doctor Who.
443. Don Hobbs, always in pursuit of new Sherlockian translations, has found a quote in Gallifreyan. The quote is "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth," and you can see the translation at <www.tinyurl.com/9v499hm>. Old High Gallifreyan was the language of the Time Lords; by the time of the Doctor, it had evolved into Modern Gallifreyan and Circular Gallifreyan. The Doctor, of course, is Doctor Who. And the artist is Vyctoria Hart (aka Phantoms Siren); you can see more of her work (and let her know if you would like to commission a different quote) at <www.tinyurl.com/8jav4ja>. And you can wear her artwork as a tattoo <www.tinyurl.com/0bub5nc>.
444. Peggy Perdue has reported that the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library now owns the autograph book in which Conan Doyle first saw the stick-figure alphabet that inspired the dancing men cipher (Jul 06 #4); the autograph book was discovered at an antiques fair in Norwich (Nov 08 #8) and was recently purchase by the Collection. There's an interesting and well-illustrated blog about the book at <www.tinyurl.com/9ely93c>.
445. Just in time for Halloween: Steve Rothman notes "The Valley of Fear" (which is billed as "America's Most Horrifying Woods") also offers the "Original Haunted Hayride" through Nov. 3 at the Phoenix Sport Club (301 West Bristol Road, Feasterville, PA 19053 (216-942-9787) <www.valleyoffear.com>; apparently not Sherlockian except for the name. And there are Sherlockian costumes at available at <www.partycity.com>, including an quite adult detective costume for women that costs more and covers less than their Sherlock Holmes costume for men. Finally, Jennie Paton spotted a "Sherlock Holmes Halloween Pumpkin Carving Stencil" at <www.tinyurl.com/9mqckby>.
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446. Oct 12 #1: Carol McCleary's THE FORMULA FOR MURDER (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2012; 336 pp., \$24.99) is the third in her series of mysteries featuring Nellie Bly, the adventurous American journalist; investigating the apparent suicide of a friend, Nellie travels to London, and Bath and

- Dartmoor, in 1890, and becomes involved with H. G. Wells, Oscar Wilde, and Arthur Conan Doyle (who is conducting research on the legends of ghostly hounds). The author has a web-site at <www.carolmccleary.com>.
447. John Linsenmeyer noted a report in the N.Y. Times (Sept. 17) that the Regency Hotel will close on Jan. 1 for a wholesale renovation that could last an entire year. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner was held at the Regency from 1972 through 1986.
448. "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (1900) is credited as the first Sherlockian film (although it was made for a Mutoscope rather than a projector); how old is the first film known to have been shot in color?
449. It isn't new, but rather newly reported: there is an on-line "Great Mouse Detective" fan club at <www.fanpop.com/spots/the-great-mouse-detective>; it is an active web-site with 141 fans (at the moment) of the movie starring Basil of Baker Street.
450. Electronic cigarettes are a modern invention that give users a nicotine hit but are unaffected by bans on smoking, and Liberro (a British company) also offers electronic pipes; both can use the Holmes blend e-liquid, which has a "robust woody tobacco flavor" and is named in honor of Sherlock Holmes. Details at <www.liberro.co.uk>. Credit eagle-eyed John Baesch for spotting a mention of the blend in an advertising supplement in The Times (June 14).
451. Patricia Guy, author of BACCHUS AT BAKER STREET: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND VICTORIAN DRINKING LORE (Jan 08 #8), has an article on "Sherlock Holmes and Alcohol: Partners in Solving Crime" on-line at Wine-Searcher Magazine; go to <www.tinyurl.com/9tbgaqw>.
452. Robin Rigby reports that there will be a memorial service in London on Nov. 2 for Michael Procter, who died earlier this year (May 12 #1); details at his web-site at <www.michael-procter.com>.
453. Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS series for readers ages 9-12, ended in 2010 with the fourth book THE FINAL MEETING (Orchard Books/Scholastic Press, 248 pp., \$7.99); the series is interesting, with the Irregulars receiving as much attention as Holmes and Watson.
454. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has reported on Chris Schweitzer, an imaginative artist who has created a spectacular set of Sherlock Holmes paper figures based on the BBC's "Sherlock" series available on five pages in full color at <www.employeepages.scad.edu/~cshweitz/BBC-SHERLOCK-7380.pdf>. And for those who are not dedicated fans of "Sherlock" there's a more traditional but nevertheless just as artistic set of eight figures for \$10.00 postpaid <www.croganadventuresstore.blogspot.com/p/merchandise.html>.
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455. Oct 12 #2: "The Real Sherlock Holmes" is a one-hour documentary that was broadcast by the History Channel in Canada on Sept. 28, but it did not air in the U.S., because the History Channel hasn't purchased the program. The program is aimed at a general audience and has commentary by Steve Doyle, Nick Utechin, E.J. Wagner, Mark Gatiss, and others. The production company is Storyline Entertainment, which will be happy to sell the documentary to a U.S. television channel. In the meantime, their web-site <www.realsherlock.com> offers a look what viewers outside Canada missed.
456. The first film shot in color was made in London in 1901 or 1902, and it has been preserved, and digitized, at the National Media Museum in Britain; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/96bf9c7>. The first Sherlockian film shot in color was "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959).
457. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-9.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more.
458. The OScholars is "an electronic journal for the exchange of information on current research, publications, and productions concerning Oscar Wilde and his worlds," and there has been a call for papers (3000 to 4000 words) for a special issue devoted to Conan Doyle, edited by Sarah E. Maier; the deadline for abstracts (250 words) is Dec. 1, and more information is available at <www.call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/node/47971>.
459. The Postal Service has issued a set of stamps honoring "The Solitary Cyclist" (well, not really, but it does seem that way). Which leads to the question: who was the solitary cyclist? Violet Smith or Bob Carruthers? There is an answer to the question, and those who don't know the answer are invited to read the story and decide for yourselves (but if you read the story in THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, don't read the annotations, because Les Klinger gives the answer, which will also be revealed in this issue of my newsletter).
460. Don Petkus has noted that Skeletons in the Closet (the store operated by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department) still offers Sherlockian merchandise, including T-shirts with a skeleton in Sherlockian costume (in black or white); they also sell a mug with a Sherlockian design. 1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033 <www.lacoroner.com>.
461. Doug Wrigglesworth reports that Terry Fallis' UP AND DOWN (Toronto: Douglas Gibson, 2012; 432 pp., \$22.99) is a humorous novel whose Canadian protagonist is a serious Sherlockian and bibliophile.
462. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's pilgrimage to Switzerland (Sep 12 #4), and as usual with the Society's excursions, there was a handsome handbook published: RETURN TO THE REICHENBACH: A SHERLOCK HOLMES SWISS ACCOUNT BOOK (2012, 114 pp.) is an excellent gathering of scholarship, artwork, and humor, and the postpaid cost is £17.50 (to the U.K.)/£20.00 (to Europe)/£25.00 (elsewhere) from the Society <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
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463. Oct 12 #3: The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has the "Sherlockian Memories" of Donald Yates, a "50 Years Ago" tribute to Henry T. Folsom and his Canonical chronologies by Julie McKuras, and other news from and about the collections. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>).
464. Randall Stock reports the discovery of one more page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" to be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on Dec. 7. Randall has a detailed description of the page at his web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/9pyvz8p>.
465. Jim Weiss continues to offer his excellent recordings younger audiences as CDs (\$13.95) and MP3 downloads (\$10.95): SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN ("The Mazarin Stone"/"The Speckled Band"/"The Musgrave Ritual"/"The Blue Carbuncle") and MYSTERY! MYSTERY! ("The Red-Headed League" and tales by Chesterton and Poe); Greathall Productions, Box 5061, Charlottesville, VA 22905 (800-477-6234) <www.greathall.com>. And there's Sherlockian artwork at the home page of his web-site.
466. John Longenbaugh's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Taproot Theatre from Nov. 16 through Dec. 29; the theater is at 204 North 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98103 (206-781-9707) <www.taproottheatre.org>.
467. Titan continues to reprint Sax Rohmer's stories about Fu-Manchu (who "makes Professor Moriarty seem an under-achiever," Max Collins has noted); DAUGHTER OF FU-MANCHU (236 pp., \$9.95) is the fourth in the series, setting Sir Dennis Nayland Smith and Dr. Petrie against the evil Fah Lo Suee in 1913. And Titan has other non-Sherlockian series, including Kevin J. Anderson's alternative histories: THE MARTIAN WAR: A THRILLING EYEWITNESS

- ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT ALIEN INVASION involves H. G. Wells with Dr. Moreaux, Dr. Cavor, T. H. Huxley, and Percival Lowell, on Earth, the Moon, and Mars (342 pp., \$12.95). The publisher's web-site is at <www.titanbooks.com>.
468. Mark Alberstat's 2012 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. US\$15.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.
469. Who was the solitary cyclist? Bob Carruthers. The manuscript of the story is titled "The Adventure of the Solitary Man", a discovery made by Andrew Jay Peck, whose article "The Solitary Man-Uscrip" was published in The Baker Street Journal (June 1972) and won Andy the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best paper published in the BSJ that year. His article was reprinted by The Baker Street Irregulars in "A REMARKABLE MIXTURE" (Jan 08 #3), still available at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> (\$35.00 plus shipping).
470. David Haugen (of The Sound of the Baskervilles) reports that Mimi Noyes is organizing a Seattle Sherlock Convention to be held Nov. 3-4. The convention focus will be on the BBC series, but there will also be panels on the Canon, and on "After ACD" pastiches; details at <www.sherlock-seattle.org>.
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471. Oct 12 #4: MX Publishing <www.mxpublishing.com> continues to publish interesting Sherlockiana: SHERLOCK'S HOME: THE EMPTY HOUSE, edited by Steve Emecz (2012; 224 pp., \$16.95) is an anthology of pastiches, poems, and vignettes from participants of <www.sherlockology.com>, issued in support of the Undershaw Preservation Trust, with additional contributions from supporters of the Trust who include Mark Gatiss, Douglas Wilmer, Stephen Fry, and many others well known to Sherlockians. Completists may want to have the Russian translation, to be published soon by Amphora; you can watch a 3-minute television news report at <www.ntv.ru/novosti/344118>.
472. Also from MX Publishing is P. C. Martin's STEAMPUNK HOLMES: LEGACY OF THE NAUTILUS (2012; 142 pp., \$14.95); it's a steampunk retelling of "The Bruce-Partington Plans" featuring Sherlock Holmes, a bionic Dr. Watson, and Sherlock's sister Mycroft (steampunk's a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes). There's much more about steampunk projects at <www.steampunkholmes.com>.
473. And: Fiona-Jane Brown's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE JACOBITE ROSE (2012; 87 pp., \$10.95) is the script for a two-act play that involves Holmes and Watson with Mycroft and forgers and thieves. Charlotte Smith's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MURDER AT LODORE FALLS AND OTHER MINOR TALES (2012; 154 pp., \$12.95) has Holmes and Watson battling a villainous gang with evil plans afoot (the minor tales are Christmas vignettes rather than cases).
474. And: a reprint of Steven Seitz's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE PLAGUE OF DRACULA (2012; 178 pp., \$18.95), first published in 2006; Holmes is appropriately skeptical about the supernatural, but quite mistaken.
475. Henry Zecher and Gay Zurich offer ideas for Christmas: Henry's biography of William Gillette, and Gay's artwork on personalized cartoons and magnets; go to <www.artandsoulinc.com> and "Product Search" for [sherlock].
476. Ken Rozek reports a new set of eight stamps from Liechtenstein that honors famous figures from classical literature, all drawn by Swiss artist Oskar Weiss, and one of them being Sherlock Holmes; the cost of the set is 8.00 CHF (that's Swiss francs, for a total of about \$8.55) and their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/8hk6783>.
477. Randall Stock's gift-buyer's guide to the "Best 2012 Sherlock Holmes Books and Movies" <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> will be posted at his web-site on Nov. 3.
478. Jacques Barzun died on Oct. 25, aged 104. He was a highly-regarded scholar with wide-ranging interests, and he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2003. One of his special interests was detective fiction, and he was co-author of A CATALOGUE OF CRIME (1971), a classic survey of the genre that won a special Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America; he also contributed often to The Baker Street Journal, wrote Sherlockian clerihews, and in SIMPLE AND DIRECT: A RHETORIC FOR WRITERS (1975) revealed that "to keep a bull pup" was, in the 1880s, British army slang for "to have a bad temper" (a revelation for which many Sherlockians have vainly sought supporting evidence).
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479. Oct 12 #5: Sherlock Holmes' 158th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 11, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.
480. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on Thursday on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (40 West 45th Street); Kim Newman, author of ANNO DRACULA (1992), THE MAN FROM THE DIOGENES CLUB (2005), and PROFESSOR MORIARTY: THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES (2011) will be the speaker. \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below); tickets will not be sold at the door.
481. The Baker Street Babes will present a new birthday-festivities event: their "Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball" at 8:00 pm at the Salmagundi Club at 47 Fifth Avenue (between 11th and 12th Streets), offering a buffet dinner, cash bar, and entertainment; formal attire and Sherlockian costume are strongly encouraged. The cost is \$45.00, and proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project; more information at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com> or from Lyndsay Faye <lyndsay@bakerstreetbabes.com>.
482. Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
483. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Checks can be sent to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.
484. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (800 Seventh Avenue at 52nd Street); checks for \$78.00 (payable to Will Walsh) should be sent to Becky Robare at 111 North 9th Street #300, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (917-817-1608). The Gala web-site has more information at <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.
485. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.
486. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.
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487. Oct 12 #6: On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite (on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel at 45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; you can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> for information about dealers' tables.
488. The Beacon Society will hold their annual meeting from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing the efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. Details at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>.
489. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 at a Delmonco family midtown restaurant (to be named later); there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks). And, of course, the usual (or perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 26 or at the door.
490. For those who wish to continue partying, there are as yet no plans (firm or infirm) for sporting events at Kennedy's or other venues on Saturday evening; stay tuned (as they say) for a further report.
491. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Irish Rogue (356 West 44th Street, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues); \$20.00 payable by cash or check at the door. As always, the brunch is open to all, but space is limited; details about a fine way to end a long weekend are available from Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.
492. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$199.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 19. In addition, there may be some rooms available at the Yale Club (50 Vanderbilt Avenue) at a special tax-free rate of \$200.00 per night (details on both below); guest cards for the Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians.
493. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.
494. Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to advise about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.quikbook.com>; special rates also are available at <www.travelzoo.com/top20/82851294-890255>. You will be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and you should not forget about non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).
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495. Oct 12 #7: The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
496. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and <www.bsiweekend.com>. News of additional events will be found in this newsletter, and at the web-sites.
497. "Sherlock & Shylock: The Sleuths of Venice" (the second conference arranged by the No Fog Countries) (Spain, Italy, and France) was an splendid gathering, thanks to hard work by members of Uno Studio in Holmes, who welcomed visitors as far-flung as Australia, Canada, Japan, and the U.S. The major event at the conference was the launch of SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: VIAGGIO IN ITALIA-ITALIAN JOURNEY, edited by Gianluca Salvatori, Enrico Solito, and Roberto Vianello; the book is a carefully-researched exploration of two albums of postcards and photographs devoted to Conan Doyle's visits to Italy, purchased at the auction at Christie's in 2004 by Richard J. Sveum. Everything in the book (Rome: Bobi Bazlen; 146 pp., E30.00) is presented in both Italian and English. You can purchase the book directly from the publisher (using PayPal) <info@bobi bazlenservice.it>. Recommended.
498. One of the nice things about eBooks is that they're a fine way to keep authors' books in print. The late Stuart Kaminsky wrote 24 novels about Toby Peters (described by Kaminsky as "the anti-Philip Marlowe"), and they are all available from Otto Penzler's Mysterious Press; two of them are of particular interest: THE HOWARD HUGHES AFFAIR (1979), in which Basil Rathbone does some detecting, and HE DONE HER WRONG (1983), which involves a Sherlockian society called The Engineer's Thumbs. \$7.99 each on-line, and you can see all of the titles at <www.mysteriouspress.com>.
499. Electronic publishing also helps readers find short fiction, such as Roger Johnson's pastiche "The Adventure of the Grace Chalice" (first published in 1997 in THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES), now available in a Kindle edition for \$1.20.
500. Richard H. Miller ("The Grice Patersons in the Island of Uffa") died Oct. 21. He served the U.S. Army (nuclear artillery) and in the U.S. Naval Reserve (intelligence, although he sometimes claimed to be in charge of disposing of all enemy mines discovered in New Mexico), and he worked for many years as lawyer at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Dick was one of the founders of The Brothers Three of Moriarty, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.
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501. Nov 12 #1: There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: the Beacon Society will meet in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel from 10:00 to 11:15 am on Saturday, Jan. 12. Details at their web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
502. Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will once again host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner on Saturday at 6:00 pm at Pete's Tavern (129 East 18th Street, between Irving Place and Third Avenue); \$45.00 (including tax and tip) for two drinks and dinner, and the details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.
503. And a reminder: seasonal souvenirs or other mementos intended for various dinner packets should be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15: 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278).
504. Amanda L. Goode's SHERLOCK CLYDE AND THE CHICKEN CAPER (Randy Goode, 2008; 64 pp., \$11.96) is an amusing mystery for young readers: Clyde is a retired draft horse who lives on a south Texas ranch and investigate why chickens are going missing at an alarming rate. Available at <www.lulu.com>.
505. Scotland Yard is for sale. Not Great Scotland Yard, the original home of the Metropolitan Police, but rather New Scotland Yard, which has served as police headquarters since 1967; it also houses the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System (HOLMES). The police hope to save more than £500

- million a year from an annual budget of £3.6 billion, and expect to receive as much as £150 million for the building after they move to a smaller building near Whitehall.
506. Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be presented by the Greenville Little Theatre from Feb. 2 to Mar. 9, 2013. The theater is at 444 College Street, Greenville, SC 29601 (864-233-6238) <www.greenvillelittletheatre.org>.
507. Nicholas Utechin's AMAZING & EXTRAORDINARY FACTS: SHERLOCK HOLMES (Newton Abbott: David & Charles, 2012; 140 pp., £9.99) is an informed and informative exploration of the Canon and its major characters, of its author and of what other authors and actors have brought to the Sherlockian world, all explained for general readers with style and occasional humor; it's a fine gift for people who have read the Sherlock Holmes stories and want to know more about them.
508. Bouchercon 2012 in Cleveland was quite successful, by all reports, with an agenda that included a Sherlockian panel ("Elementary, My Dear Cleveland"). Bouchercon 2013 ("A New York State of Crime") will be held in Albany Sept. 19-20, Bouchercon 2014 ("Murder at the Beach" in Long Beach on Nov. 13-16, and Bouchercon 2015 (no slogan as yet) in Raleigh on Oct. 8-11. Their web-sites are at <www.bouchercon201x.com> (substitute a numeral for the x).
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509. Nov 12 #2: Nielsen's "live plus same day" data credited the "Elementary" pilot episode with 13.4 viewers, winning its network time slot, and the series has continued to do well, with most newspaper and Internet reviews quite favorable. According to CBS, the series is up 17% over the same time period last year for adults aged 18-49 (the prime target for such shows), and the network has ordered the "back nine" for the series, for a total of 22 episodes. CBS also has announced that a special episode of the series will receive the coveted post-Super Bowl time slot on Feb. 3. The previous Super Bowl had an estimated 111.3 viewers, and about 38 million of them stayed tuned in to watch the next program.
510. KY TEYLU BASKERVILLE is the latest language for Canonical translations reported by Don Hobbs; the language is Cornish, and the book is available at <www.amazon.com> (232 pp., \$16.95). Don notes that there now are 98 languages with at least one translation.
511. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the King's Kitchen in Charlotte on Nov. 7, welcomed by Fred Mende (founder of The Saxe-Coburg Squares of Mecklenburg County). The city is named in honor of Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and there's a Sherlockian connection: she was Queen Consort of the United Kingdom, married to George III, the monarch whose folly Holmes mentioned (in "The Noble Bachelor").
512. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-10.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more.
513. Kelly Blau has kindly forwarded Diane Birnberg's colorful article on "Life at 221B Baker Street" in the Sept.-Oct. issue of Dollhouse Miniatures; she and her husband have a complete house, based on books, films, and television. \$6.95 (\$5.95 digital) (886-606-6587) <www.dhminiatures.com>.
514. It has been many years since the "Mazarin" stone was identified (BSJ, Sept. 1974, p. 141-145) as a 78.96-carat yellow diamond that was then among the crown jewels of Iran, and it's nice to learn that it is still in Teheran, one of the "Iranian Yellows" described in a catalog published by the Iran Chamber Society and available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/268kwn>.
515. There will be some yellow diamonds available at auction at Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 5, including a 47.14-carat diamond formerly in the collection of the Duchess of Windsor, part of a diamond pendant necklace estimated at \$1,500,000-2,000,000, and (if you want something a bit bigger) a 52.73 diamond ring estimated at \$3,000,000-4,000,000.
516. Nicole Marie Charlotte Pierette Jeanne Schneider Milinaire-Russell, Dowager Duchess of Bedford, died on Sept. 6. Nicole Milinaire was associate producer for Sheldon Reynolds' 1954 television series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes". After her marriage to the Duke in 1964 she helped make Abbey the most popular stately home in Britain, and her NICOLE NOBODY: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE DUCHESS OF BEDFORD (1974) has a short chapter dealing with her work with Reynolds.
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517. Nov 12 #3: The November issue of Ineffable Twaddle (the monthly newsletter of The Sound of the Baskervilles has news of Richard Milner's acquisition of the contents of a safe deposit box that had belonged to Sir Arthur Conan. There were two pistols, one of them originally purchased by Conan Doyle's brother Innes in 1893, and both weapons were left with Conan Doyle's solicitors in 1921 when the Firearms Act first became law. You can read more about the discovery at <www.soundofthebaskervilles.com>.
518. The newsletter also has a report of some interesting cufflinks that feature pages from a copy of a Sherlock Holmes adventure (\$34.50) available at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/a5nakgp>.
519. "Will Arsène Lupin Meet Sherlock Holmes in Hollywood Return?" was the headline on a blog by Graham Fuller on Nov. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/b5uvfa7>. "Lupin is known as being to the French what Sherlock Holmes is to the Englishspeaking world," according to Liza Forman <www.tinyurl.com/ar97hzt>; Lupin encountered Holmes in stories written by Maurice Leblanc, and the new film (tentatively titled "Arsene Lupin AKA Once a Thief") is "set up at Warner Bros." (and is not yet even listed at the Internet Movie Data Base, which means that it hasn't reached the "in development" stage).
520. Nice news for Canonical chronologists: Jody Baker has reported a new "complete chronology" for Sherlock Holmes; it was prepared by Chris J. Miller and is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/7qcpwxk>. He includes a link to an interesting essay by David Richardson on "Some Chronological Crankiness" via the Wayback Machine, something that people may recall from "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show". Today's Wayback Machine is a digital time capsule created by the Internet Archive in San Francisco, with more than 150 billion web pages from 1996 onward; it's a splendid way to recapture material from defunct web-sites.
521. Jody also has posted to The Hounds of the Internet a warm tribute to Christopher Morley, explaining that "Morley (and that little band of intellectual ruffians with whom he associated) set a tone that still exists today. They were a literate, talented, free-spirited, fun loving bunch of devotees who held nothing Canonical to be sacred. Everything was subject to their humor and became the objects of their spoof. They had their fun. It was clean fun, with refinement and civility. It is among the highest forms of entertainment."
522. Edward R. Hamilton, who specializes in remaindered books, offers interesting Sherlockian and Doylean books, DVDs, and CDs at nicely discounted prices; you can request a catalog (Box 15, Falls Village, CT 06031) or visit his web-site <www.hamiltonbook.com>.
523. Fossway, the developer that owns Undershaw, where Arthur Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, has been denied permission to appeal a high court ruling that the house may not be converted into flats (Jun 12 #1). The Don't Go Into the Cellar theater company will offer a free performance of their oneman show "Ho Ho Holmes" (which they describe as "Holmes in time for Christmas with some seasonal Sherlockian capers") at the Devil's Punchbowl Hotel in Hindhead on Dec. 23, in support of the Undershaw Preservation Trust; additional information available at <www.saveundershaw.com>.

524. Nov 12 #4: Harry Stephen Keeler, according to Google Books, is to some an overlooked genius, and to others the Ed Wood of detective fiction. And his novel *THE RIDDLE OF THE TRAVELING SKULL* (1934) features Milo Payne, who appears with a "long-beaked Sherlockholmsian cap" (noted by Paul Williams in *Ineffable Twaddle*, the monthly newsletter of *The Sound of the Baskervilles*). Keller apparently invented the word (with that spelling).
525. Paul Kurtz died on Oct. 20. He was a noted secular humanist and for decades debunked paranormal phenomena and pseudoscience; he founded the Center for Inquiry and the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, and in 1969 created Prometheus Books, which published books by Martin Gardner, Isaac Asimov, and many others.
526. Jim Webb spotted Beth Carswell's essay "Great Gumshoes: A Guide to Fictional Detectives at the AbeBooks.com <www.tinyurl.com/d4febqq>, with a report (courtesy of *The Guardian*) on an essay written by Agatha Christie in 1945 at the behest of the Ministry of Information in which she praised the excellence of British crime fiction, with lavish praise of Conan Doyle, and harsh comments about her won Hercule Poirot (with whom she had become bored to tears). You can read the *Guardian* article at <www.tinyurl.com/bysomda>, but to read Christie's essay you'll need to buy a copy of the new reprint of the collaborative novel *ASK A POLICEMAN*, recently published by Harper-Collins with the first-ever publication of her essay in the U.K. (according to *The Guardian*, it was first published in a Russian magazine in 1947).
527. David Marcum's *THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* has been published by George Vanderburgh (2011; 311 pp., \$25.00); the collection of nine pastiches has Holmes and Watson visiting Tennessee (where the author lives) and solving cases in England, with one of them explaining a family connection between Holmes and Solar Pons. The publisher's address is Box 50, R.R.4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.
528. And for a newer generation who may not be familiar with Solar Pons, you can consult Bob Byrne's web-site at <www.solarpons.com> and Charles Prepolec's discussion at <www.bakerstreetdozen.com/pons.html>.
529. Sabrina Herrera reports that "Doctor Who: The Great Detective" is the title of a "prequel" to the next Christmas Special "The Snowmen" (which will air in Britain on the BBC and in the U.S. on BBC America on Dec. 25); you can read all about it (and watch the 4-minute prequel and a trailer at the BBC web-site <www.tinyurl.com/bty67z5>). The current "Doctor Who" is created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat, so it's understandable that there seem to be at least a few echoes of Sherlock Holmes in the upcoming Christmas Special.
530. When in London: the Geological Society of London will mark the centenary of the reading of Charles Dawson's "Piltdown Man" paper to the Society with a one-day conference on Dec. 18. There will be tours of the Natural History Museum's "Piltdown Centenary Exhibit" in the morning, and the papers in the afternoon will include David Martill's "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Piltdown Forgery"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/cow6fkx>. In 1994 Martill and Eberhard Frey described and named "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" from a fossil found in northeastern Brazil (Aug 95 #6 and Sep 95 #2); it's a pterodactyl with a wing-span of 4.6 meters.
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531. Nov 12 #5: Joe Fay (the manager of rare books at Heritage Auctions) "will attempt to solve the mystery of why one man from Flower Mound owns 3,000 books he can't read," in Dallas on Dec. 11 at 6:00 pm. The man in question is Don Hobbs, the "maniac collector" who specializes in Canonical foreign translations and will speak at the event; additional information is available from Heritage Auctions (800-872-2467) <rsvp@ha.com>.
532. Further to the report on "Sherlock & Shylock: The Sleuths of Venice" (Oct 12 #7), those who attended the conference were fortunate to have escaped a more recent extreme weather event: <www.tinyurl.com/cmpwmbh>.
533. Titan Books <www.titanbooks.com> continues to reissue Philip José Farmer's science fiction and fantasy: *A FEAST UNKNOWN* (303 pp., \$12.95) is an introduction to the non-Sherlock world of Lord Grandrith and Doc Caliban (Farmer's versions of Tarzan and Doc Savage), with much sex and violence, and a Postscript by Theodore Sturgeon, and a new Afterword by Arthur C. Sippo.
534. The Strand Magazine offers a full-color Sherlockian calendar for 2013, with more than a hundred illustrations, including original artwork (\$19.95). Go to <www.tinyurl.com/dxrhd7w> for more information.
535. Roger Johnson and Jean Upton's *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MISCELLANY* (Port Stroud: History Press, 2012; 223 pp., £9.99) has an appreciative foreword by Gyles Brandeth and entertaining descriptions of how interesting Sherlockians and Sherlockiana can be; it's an excellent introduction for beginners, and old hands will also find it a valuable guide to what admirers of Holmes and the Canon have done and are doing.
536. "The Arthur Conan Doyle Appreciation Society" is a new play written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson (who wrote "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for Peepolykus in 2007) and performed by Nicholson, Javier Marzan, and Gabriel Quigley at the Traverse Theatre, Dec. 4-22; according to the theater, "this riotous show fuses lecture, storytelling, slapstick comedy, and lightningfast costume changes to explore some pretty big ideas" about Arthur Conan Doyle and his life and work. 10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh EH1 2ED, Scotland (0131-228-1404) <www.traverse.co.uk>.
537. Another Christmas show coming up is "Sherlock Holmes: The Panto-Crime" at St. Ambrose Church Hall in Leyland, Dec. 4-8. The St. Ambrose Players are presenting "a highly traditional Christmas pantomime" in which Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is kidnapped by Toyland's evil Mrs. Moriarty, and Santa calls in Holmes and Watson to solve the crime. Moss Lane, Leyland, Lancs. PR25 4XA, England (0743-243-286) <www.stambroseplayers.co.uk>.
538. Keep an eye out for "The Starving Games", a new film now in production by the Safran Company; according to *Variety* (Oct. 22), it's a parody of "The Hunger Games", "The Avengers", "Sherlock Holmes", and "Harry Potter".
539. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has found Heroes and Villains Miniatures, who offer a pair of attractive miniature busts of Holmes and Watson (€39.95), sculpted in resin at 1/12 scale by Raúl García Latorre; the company is in Spain, and their web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/c8xcxa3> has detailed instructions for assembling and painting the busts.
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540. Nov 12 #6: Richard Lancelyn Green's copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual is now on display at the City Museum of Portsmouth, by way of celebrating the 125th anniversary of the publication of "A Study in Scarlet"; the City Council's press release at <www.tinyurl.com/apn7vl8> has a photograph of museums volunteer Aneta Martiskova wearing appropriate fingernail polish and lipstick. The copy of Beeton's will be exhibited until Jan. 31; Randall Stock has more about this copy at <www.tinyurl.com/az4m9ka>.
541. The Wrap (a web-site covering Hollywood) has reported on plans for a remake of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); Chris Columbus wrote the screenplay for the original film and will produce the remake for Paramount. The studio is "in talks with" Evan Spiliotopoulos to write a new script.
542. Tina Rhea spotted "Skull Panda Loves Everything" (a web-site that features Sam Logan's imaginative cartoons) and an amusing approach to the Canon published on Oct. 26 <www.skullpanda.com/post/34346166573>.
543. "The Sussex Vampire" wasn't a vampire, but there have been quite a few vampires in Sherlockian pastiches, starting in 1973, according to Bill Mason's list at <www.sherlockian.net/pastiches/vampires.html>.
544. "Jack the Ripper: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery Musical" had a two-performance run in Australia this month; the show is described as "the gothic, grizzly Jack the Ripper story, set in the backdrop of the seedy 'Arse End of London' Music Hall, investigated by a humorous Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson"

- and is scheduled at the Adelaide Fringe on Feb. 23 and Mar. 2 and 9. There is Facebook page [fans of jack the ripper a sherlock holmes mystery] with lots of photographs.
545. Alan Rettig spotted an imaginative two-minute animation ("The Case of the Broken Lamp") created by Alberto Beguierie, a student at the Ringling College of Art & Design in Sarasota, who offers a combination of film noir and youthful fun <www.vimeo.com/42728658>.
546. John R. Lavas has published a lavish "collector's centenary edition" of THE LOST WORLD in a limited edition of 300 copies (US\$115.00 plus shipping from New Zealand) with color illustrations and additional essays by other authors on topics such as "The Geology of the Lost World" and "The Lost World in Popular Culture"; more information is available from the publisher (Box 14-421, Panmure, Auckland 1741, New Zealand) <j.lavas@auckland.ac.nz>.
547. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has reported a Benedict Cumberbatch Mask that "will transform you into an English film, television, and theater actor" (£3.49), at <www.mymask.co.uk/benedict-cumberbatch-177p.asp>.
548. Larry Hagman died on Nov. 23. He began his long career as an actor on the stage and went on to star in television, best known for his roles as Capt. Tony Nelson on "I Dream of Jeannie" (1965-1970) and as J. R. Ewing on "Dynasty" (1981-1989), he also played Sherlock Holmes in the television film "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976).
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549. Dec 12 #1: There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: the Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel at 11:15 am on Saturday, Jan. 12. There will be a performance of "The Riddle of the Starving Swine", a play written by Gayle Lange Puhl, adapted by William Hyder, and with puppets created by Ken Vogel.
550. And those heading to New York may find some useful hints in Scott Monty's handy-dandy guide for newbies and veterans <www.bit.ly/bsitips>.
551. The Baker Street Irregulars will issue a new version of the electronic Baker Street Journal in January: the eBSJ v2 will be on sale on Saturday during the birthday festivities in Covent Garden West (that's the dealers room in the Roosevelt Hotel's Vanderbilt Suite) for \$149.95 (or \$49.95 to owners of the old BSJ CD-ROM who bring and surrender disk 4); the new DVD has all issues through 2011 on one disk, and will be more easily searchable. Go to <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/pdf/ebsj-cd-trade-in.pdf> for more information on the eBSJ v2. After the birthday festivities the new DVD will be available by mail at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/ebsj.html> (the trade-in expires on May 1).
552. "Confessions of a Bookplate Junkie" (reported by Don Hobbs) is a blog that offers Lew Jaffe's "random thoughts from a passionate bookplate collector" <www.bookplatejunkie.blogspot.com>, and on Nov. 25 he displayed images of five bookplates showing fingerprints. One of the bookplates (with Frederic Dorr Steele artwork) is from S. Davis Levin's "A. Conan Doyle Collection" and is dated as early 20th century. A Google search has turned up a letter dated 1937 in which he said that he had been collecting bookplates for more than thirty years; does anyone know of him as a Conan Doyle collector?
553. SCARLET IN GASLIGHT was a comic-book series, written by Martin Powell and illustrated by Seppo Makinen and published by Eternity Comics in 1987 and 1988, with Sherlock Holmes engaged in a battle against Count Dracula. Now there's a 25th-anniversary reprint as a graphic novel (Los Angeles: Pulp 2.0 Press, 2011), with remastered artwork and an introduction by Win Scott Eckert, an interview with Powell.
554. James O'Brien's THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES: CRACKING THE CASE WITH SCIENCE AND FORENSICS (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012; 172 pp., \$29.95) offers an informed review of forensics both in the Canon and at the time the stories were written; O'Brien is a chemist, and pays particular attention to that area of forensics, offering a rebuttal to Isaac Asimov's claim that Holmes was a "blundering chemist" (in Science Digest in 1980).
555. O'Brien ends his book with a brief but entertaining discussion of Charles L. Scamahorn, whose "Probaway--Life Hacks" blog includes detailed explanations of how Conan Doyle was a prolific hoaxster, responsible for Piltdown Man, Sir Francis Drake's Plate. and the Kensington Rune Stone, and in addition was Jack the Ripper; go to <www.probaway.wordpress.com> and search for [conan doyle].
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556. Dec 12 #2: John Bennett Shaw once gained fame, or perhaps notoriety, when he explained at an annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars why he had decided that the Canon was unsuitable for younger readers, and his paper ("To Shelve or to Censor") was published in Shades of Sherlock in Aug. 1971; Tina Rhea spotted a more recent list of "the top 10 suggestive lines from the Sherlock Holmes canon" can be found at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/c8jexy7>.
557. There will be a sequel to A STUDY IN SHERLOCK, an anthology of "stories inspired by the Holmes Canon" edited by Laurie R. and Leslie S. Klinger (Aug 11 #2); the new volume will be IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, due from Bantam in the fall of 2013. Laurie listed the authors whose stories will be in the new book at her web-site on Nov. 18 <www.laurierking.com/blogs>.
558. Spain Rodriguez died on Nov. 23. He was an influential radical cartoonist, a founder (with Robert Crumb) of ZAP Comix, and an important contributor to underground comics. He also illustrated five Canonical stories in SHERLOCK HOLMES' STRANGEST CASES (Nov 01 #2).
559. Jean Marie Whaley has reported "Epic Rap Battles of History" is a series of short videos you can view at YouTube; the latest being "Batman vs. Sherlock Holmes" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=17CLiZuiBkQ>. Parental warning: there are crude lyrics involved.
560. The fall issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) has Greg Darak's report on 1940s correspondence between Edgar W. Smith and Basil Rathbone, plus other news of and about the Trust; past issues of the newsletter can be read on-line at the Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, and the current issue is available from Mike Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <editor@bsitrust.org>.
561. "Descent Into Madness: The Truth About Mary Russell" is the title of David Marcum's quite different view of the relationship between Holmes and Russell, presented as a pastiche that you can read on-line at Carolyn and Joel Senter's "Classic Specialties" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/czf42ax>.
562. The page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at auction at Christie's in New York on Dec. 7 (Oct 12 #3) sold for \$158,500 (including the buyers premium), twice as much as the last page from the manuscript that sold at auction for \$78,000 (Nov 04 #4). Randall has a detailed description of the page at his web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/9pyvz8p>.
563. The electronic journal Ripperologist continues to cast a wide net: the December issue (#129) has an interesting article ("Taken as Magnificent: The Lydia Manton Affair") by Robert Linford, David O'Flaherty, and John Savage, that discusses in some detail a royal scandal involving Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence. The Duke of Clarence, the eldest son of the Prince of Wales, is one of the many people suspected of being Jack the Ripper, and there's a Sherlockian connection: the solicitor George Lewis, who had royal connections, was present at the inquest into the death of Miss Manton and is mentioned in "The Illustrious Client" (a case that some Sherlockians believe involved the Prince of Wales). For information about subscriptions, you can contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.
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564. Dec 12 #3 Last year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Toronto Public Library by Tom Ue (on "Sherlock Holmes and Shakespeare"), and his remarks were published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are

- available if you join the Friends now. The web-site (with PayPal and credit-card capability) is at <www.acdfriends.org> or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>; the minimum donation (which includes three issues of their newsletter "Through the Magic Door") is \$25.00. This year the lecturer was Roy Pilot (on "The Lost World") and his talk will be sent to members of the Friends next year.
565. "Sherlock Holmes, Past and Present" is the title of a conference planned by Jonathan Cranfield and Tom Ue at Senate House in London on June 21-22; they have issued a call for papers (with a deadline of Jan. 15), and more information is available at <www.filmint.nu/?p=6377>.
566. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times12-11.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, including a report on a recent conference in Seattle (there are plans for a second one next year), and news that there might be a 25th-anniversary Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County next September.
567. Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Minstrel Players at Houghton Hall (on Long Island), Nov. 13-21 (120 Main Street, Northport Village, N.Y. 11768) (631-732-2926) <www.minstrelplayers.org>.
568. Penguin has relaunched its Penguin English Library ("100 of the best novels in the English language") in attractive new covers, all of the books priced at £5.99. And one of those novels is THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. But they also are not taking the limitation seriously: another of their titles is THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS AND OTHER CASES.
569. COMPLETE WORKS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an introduction by Robert Ryan, has been published by Simon & Schuster. It's available without charge at Amazon, and can be read by anyone who has a Kindle, or Kindle software installed on your computer <www.amazon.com/dp/B00AHE20W0>.
570. As noted earlier (Apr 12 #6) Steve Hockensmith's story "Water Indian" (featuring Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer) was first published in the anthology GHOST TOWN, edited by Martin H. Greenberg and Russell Davis (New York: Pinnacle Books, 2010; 336 pp., \$6.99); there are 15 original stories (the others non-Sherlockian) by authors who include Loren D. Estleman and Louis L'Amour.
571. Peter Calamai reports that Stella Bella Wines (Margaret River, Australia) is selling a range of Skuttlebutt wines that have reached Canada, and perhaps soon will be available in the U.S.; their Shiraz/Cabernet 2008 is reviewed at WineCompanion.com as a "hedonistic style offering year-in, yearout enjoyment." Skuttlebutt seems to be a variant spelling of Scuttlebutt, but (not for the faint-hearted) there's a seriously different definition at <www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=skuttlebutt>.
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572. Dec 12 #4: "The Magical Illustration of Arthur Rackham" a nice tribute to the artist at Abebooks.com <www.tinyurl.com/ctgxx2>, but they don't mention Rackham's illustrations for a book that's of marginal Sherlockian interest: Christopher Morley's WHERE THE BLUE BEGINS (1922), which was written by the founder of The Baker Street Irregulars and is available from dealers at prices ranging up to \$3575 <www.tinyurl.com/cj5v9e3>.
573. Benedict Cumberbatch has been nominated by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for a Golden Globe Award for best actor in a miniseries or motion picture made for television. The awards ceremony will be broadcast by NBCTV on Jan. 13.
574. Roger Johnson and Jean Upton report an impressive "Ronald Searle Tribute" blog by Matt Jones at <www.ronaldsearle.blogspot.com>; Jones' entry on Apr. 27, 2009, about Searle's involvement with the Festival of Britain, includes two versions of his wonderful depiction of the recreation of the sittingroom at 221b Baker Street.
575. The autumn issue of The Magic Door celebrates the 100th anniversary of "The Lost World" and includes fine articles by Dayna Nuhn, Doug Wrigglesworth, Peggy Perdue, and others, all devoted to Professor Challenger. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Cliff (as above). The Friends will celebrate the science of Arthur Conan Doyle on May 4, when the Hollyer Lecturer will be Bernard Lightman.
576. Craig Wichman's STANDING IN THE SPIRIT AT YOUR ELBOW: A HISTORY OF DICKENS' CHRISTMAS CAROL AS RADIO/AUDIO has been published by Bear Manor Media (238 pp., \$19.95) <www.tinyurl.com/bsgtr95>; Wichman has played Scrooge, and so has Basil Rathbone, and the book includes recollections by Rathbone (Edith Meiser wrote the script) and many others. Signed copies are available from the author <quicksilvert@aol.com>; \$25.00 postpaid.
577. What if Conan Doyle had named his detective something other than Sherlock, like Keith or Francis, asked a blogger on the web-site of the Topeka Capital-Journal (May 26). Well people would be saying "No kidding, Keith" or "No fooling, Francis."
578. Ronald A. Knox is well known to Sherlockians for his landmark paper "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", but he did much more, including translating the Bible from the Latin Vulgate into English. Ann Lewis has reported a web-site at <www.knoxbible.com> for a work that was approved for liturgical use and endorsed by Pope Pius XII.
579. Ken Ross has posted video at YouTube showing nine minutes of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in action against the P. G. Wodehouse Society in their first cricket match, in 2001 <www.tinyurl.com/buqde9m>; the video includes footage showing the appropriately costumed spectators.
580. Next year's "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Mar. 15-17 and Nov. 1-3; there will be a new mystery to solve, and a performance by the East Lynne Theater Company. More information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204) (800-275-4278 ext 185) <www.capemaymac.org>.
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581. Dec 12 #5: The Feb. 2012 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will be found on newsstands during the birthday celebrations, has Sherlockian artwork on the cover, pastiches by Howard Engel, Terence Faherty, and Amy Myers, a birthday tribute by editor Janet Hutchings, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
582. F. Andrew Leslie's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be produced at the Cloverdale Performing Arts Center from Feb. 22 through Mar. 3. The theater is at 209 North Cloverdale Boulevard, Cloverdale, CA 95425 (707-894-2214) <www.cloverdaleperformingarts.com>.
583. "Department of Celebrities Wearing Deerstalkers" ... who's the celebrity?
584. "Sharing Sherlock: The Story of a Pompey Lad" is a project that has won a £90,000 grant from Britain's Heritage Lottery Fund. The Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth will create a new on-line exhibition and run 30 outreach and education workshops for schools and local residents, and produce 10 touring exhibitions for local communities.
585. AudioGO (a new name for BBC Audiobooks) now offers the entire Canon, read unabridged (and very well) by Derek Jacobi, on CDs and as downloads; their web-site is at <www.audiogo.co.uk>. THE LOST WORLD also is available, both read unabridged by Matthew Rhys and as a radio dramatization broadcast by the BBC in 1975, plus many Sherlockian pastiches by other authors. There also is a great deal of Sherlockian and Doylean audio offered as downloads at Amazon's <www.audible.com>.

586. Booger is back! Curtis Armstrong (BSI 2006, as "An Actor and a Rare One") starred as Booger in "Revenge of the Nerds" (1984), and he will return in "King of the Nerds" (an unscripted eight-episode series on TBS cable), and he and Robert Carradine will host a competition for nerdy hopefuls competing for a \$100,000 prize. The series starts on TBS on Jan. 17.
587. Dec 12 #6: "Mr. Culverton Smith is in," Watson was told (in "The Dying Detective"). Donald A. Redmond, in his SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SOURCES (1982), was unable to determine a source for the name Culverton Smith, and it's unusual indeed. A Google search reveals a song "Culverton Smith is the Boogie Man" at YouTube (but it's Sherlockian), and there was a Culverton Smith who graduated from Holmes Elementary School in Spring Lake, Mich., in the class of 1904, according to the web-site <www.classmates.com> (but one must be skeptical). Now Bob Katz has reported Culverton Smith as a character (played by Muriel Hutchinson) in the movie "Another Thin Man" (1939).
588. So who's the celebrity wearing a deerstalker? "Elton John dining al fresco with his cat at Caribou Ranch, Colorado, 1974," in a photograph spotted and kindly forwarded by Samantha Wolov.
589. Gail H. Curry's THE MINIATURE SHERLOCK HOLMES: A SOURCE BOOK FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOKS PUBLISHED IN MINIATURE FORMAT (2011; revised and reprinted in 2012; 36 pp., \$25.00 postpaid) is exactly what the subtitle promises, covering both the Canon and Sherlockiana, with many full-color illustrations, from 1915 (Little Leather Library) to 2010 (Peter and Donna Thomas). Completists may be unhappy to discover that there are three variants of John Bennett Shaw's THE WHOLE ART OF DETECTION, but that's an indication of how widely the author has spread her net. Gail Curry-Books, 12016 Ballantine, Overland Park, KS 66213.
590. Get out your running shoes: Kate Karlson reports that there will be a London Bridge Half Marathon and 5K on Apr. 13 (that's the old London Bridge at Lake Havasu, Ariz., rather than the new London Bridge in London). Details are available at <www.londonbridgehalf.com>. You get to see the bridge as one of the locations filmed for "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (1976), which starred Larry Hagman as Sherman Holmes. And if you run in the 5K you may see Kate as well.
591. This newsletter has come a long way from the ancient days when it was produced on a typewriter and distributed as photocopies: for one thing, it now costs more to print and mail (and the subscription price will increase next year to reflect a slight increase in printing costs). And making the newsletter available on the Internet has reduced the number of subscribers (the print run of more than 300 in 1985 is now fewer than 150). The electronic edition started as text posted free to two electronic mailings lists, and now, thanks to the wizardry of Randall Stock, it is also published scanned, with illustrations in full color and with live links, at two web-sites: one of them Willis Frick's Sherlocktron <www.sherlocktron.com/scuttlebutt.htm>, and the other The Red Circle of Washington <www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo8o>. As for the future, god only knows (there are no plans for a podcast, nor for a live-action video edition at YouTube).
592. And Kate Karlson, who presides over The Turf Builders of Baker Street, offers an enthusiastic tip on Bridgetta at Aqueduct on Jan. 13, for the punters who have any money left at the end of the birthday festivities.

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Jan 13 #1:

1. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 159th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 9 to Jan. 13. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.
 2. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Kim Newman, author of ANNO DRACULA, THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES and other fine fantasies, who discussed the many incarnations of the evil Prof. Moriarty; and as with previous distinguished speakers, you will be able to read his paper in The Baker Street Journal.
 3. The next event that evening was a new one: a "Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball" hosted by the Baker Street Babes at the Salmagundi Club, where a capacity crowd enjoyed a buffet dinner, music, a pop quiz, serious costumery, and an auction, all benefiting the Wounded Warriors Project; go to <www.tinyurl.com/awzf46m> to see lots of photographs, including Lyndsay Faye as Robert Downey Jr. as Sherlock Holmes.
 4. The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and featured a performance of two scenes from "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" (a new play written by Gregg Oliver Bodine), and an appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Gillette (who were impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver). The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan Whimsey award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber) for the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year; the winner was Melinda Caric (author of "An Open Apology to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle"), and the award was a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
 5. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, with Sue Vizoskie offering the preprandial first toast to Elaine Coppola as The Woman. The dinner's theme was tributes to past leaders of the BSI, and it featured the usual toasts and traditions, as well as papers and tributes and musical entertainment.
 6. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented editor's medals to John Bergquist, Andy Solberg, Bob Katz, and Sonia Fetherston, and the Two-Shilling Award to Michael Kean, and Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were awarded to Rosane McNamara ("Lady Mary Brackenstall"), Mark Levy ("Don Juan Murillo"), Tom Horrocks ("Colonel Sebastian Moran"), Stefano Guerra ("Count Negretto Sylvius"), Philip Cunningham ("Abe Slaney"), Daniel Moss ("Culverton Smith"), Jan Burke ("The Most Winning Woman"), and Frank Saksena ("Jonathan Small").
 7. "Adventure" was the theme of the Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the entertainment included toasts (musical and otherwise), theatrics (from a script written by Dean Clark), scholarship (edifying and amusing), music, and an auction.
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8. Jan 13 #2: Some of the more fervent (or possibly hard core) Sherlockians have been known to gather after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots, and it has been reported that this year was no exception.
9. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. And The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing someone who introduces young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Shannon Carlisle, an accelerated learning teacher in Franklin, Tenn.; the society's web-site is at <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Beacon Society also awards Jan Stauber Grants, funded by contributions and a \$1,000 matching fund pledged by Al Gregory.

10. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at Delmonico's Kitchen offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; the entertainment included AI and Betsy Rosenblatt's traditional irreverent recap of the year's events (Sherlockian and otherwise), and Peter Calamai was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate accompanied by a check) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year (his article on "Why He Isn't Sir Sherlock Today"). The Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets for Maggie Schpak's handsome replica of Mrs. Hudson's chatelaine (the tickets were sold by Elaine Coppola, Peggy Perdue, and Linda Hunt), and an auction of alcoholic and artistic donations to the Fund.
11. The principal Saturday-evening event was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at Kennedy's Irish Pub, and then on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant.
12. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 17, 2014. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 11, 2014.
13. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers.
14. You can also subscribe at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSI, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
15. AI Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2012 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 have received Irregular Shillings).

16. Jan 13 #3: "Doctor Who: The Snowmen" (Nov 12 #4) did indeed have Sherlockian echoes, undoubtedly thanks to Steven Moffat, who wrote the script. You learn how Conan Doyle got the idea for his stories, and Matt Smith, as the Doctor, is seen in Sherlockian costume. And there's more to be found in the annotated look at the show (with lots of spoilers) by Alan Kistler at SpinOff Online <www.tinyurl.com/d2zq6yy>. And you've seen Richard E. Grant (Dr. Simeon) before: he played Holmes in "Encounters: The Other Side" on BBC 2 in 1992.
17. The new eBSJ v2 is now available: a DVD with all issues of The Baker Street Journal through 2011 in PDF format, and it's nicely done indeed. The price is \$149.95, but there's a trade-in offer open (through May 1) to those who already have the old BSI CD-ROM set (send in your old disk #4 and the price of the DVD is only \$49.95); more information and some helpful hints can be found at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/ebsj.html>. Don't neglect the link to Randall Stock's helpful "Tips for using the eBSJ".
18. The latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series is THE WRONG PASSAGE, edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg, with a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Golden Pince-Nez", a careful transcript, annotations, history, commentary, and artwork. Manuscripts bring you close to the moment of creation when an author writes a story, and the accompanying history and scholarship are fascinating, informative, and occasionally surprising. 248 pp., \$35.00; details, including the table of contents and a brief excerpt, are at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/wrongpassage.html>.
19. Robert Veld's THE STRAND MAGAZINE & SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TWO FIXED POINTS IN A CHANGING AGE (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2012; 100 pp., \$24.95) is a detailed and carefully-researched exploration of the many Sherlockian aspects of The Strand Magazine, including its publisher, editors, and illustrators; it's a grand story, and told well indeed. Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256 <www.wessexpress.com>.
20. Gasogene also has published Nicholas Utechin's "OCCASIONALLY TO EMBELLISH" (319 pp., \$18.95), which is modestly subtitled "some writings on Sherlock Holmes"; it's a collection of reprints of some of Nick's literate and often humorous scholarship, from 1969 through 2009. There are new postscripts to many of the pieces, and the book offers a fine look at how much fun can be found in Canonical criticism.
21. Paul Herbert has reported something that surely sets a record for the most extreme application of esoteric non-Canonical knowledge to something Sherlockian: Ben Lindbergh's "Overthinking It: The Craziest Half-Inning in History" is his analysis of the televised baseball game that Holmes and Watson watched in the opening episode of "Elementary" on CBS-TV. Posted on-line at Baseball Prospectus <www.tinyurl.com/9wad2vz> on Jan. 18, the piece is well worth a visit.
22. There will be a full-length reading of Greg Oliver Bodine's new play "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" (previewed at the William Gillette Luncheon) by the Workshop Theater Company in the Jewel Box Theater on Mar. 10 at 6:00 pm (no charge, and reservations not needed); 312 West 36th Street (4th floor), New York, NY 10018 <www.workshoptheater.org/node/2263>.

23. Jan 13 #4: Maria Konnikova's MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Viking, 2013; 273 pp., \$26.95) uses the Canon well to explain to lay readers how Sherlock Holmes thinks, and how readers can follow his methods to improve their own thinking. She is working on a doctorate in psychology at Columbia University and has written for periodicals that include Scientific American and the N.Y. Times; her book is instructive, insightful, and entertaining. And recommended. She also has an interesting web-site at <www.mariakonnikova.com>.
24. James E. Smith II ("Winner of the Jackson Prize") died on Dec. 24. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War Two, he had a long career as a psychiatrist for the Baltimore County Circuit Court. Jim was an enthusiastic member of The Six Napoleons, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.
25. The 2012 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 70 pages of scholarship, quizzes, and pastiches, including the late Michael Doyle's script for "Henry Baker--Your Goose Is Cooked", James Romnes' discussion of "Sherlock's Armoire: Wearable Victoriana", and Steve Duke's "ACD in Melbourne". The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.), checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles should be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.
26. Kindle users can pretend they're reading a real book if they conceal their Kindle in a vintage book cover that's offered by Signals (Box 2599, Hudson, OH 44236) (800-699-9696) <www.signals.com> for \$49.95; one of them (HN3982) being the cover of SHERLOCK HOLMES SELECTED STORIES published by the Oxford University Press in 1951. They're made in Britain by the Manor Bindery and their web-site's at <www.klevercase.co.uk>.
27. Admirers of Bert Coules' dramatizations of the entire Canon with same actors as Holmes and Watson (and if you're not, you should be) can visit his excellent new web-site at <www.merrisonholmes.com>; it's full of information about the background, the shows, the stars, and much more.
28. Further to the mention of John Bennett Shaw's classic paper "To Shelve or to Censor" (Dec 12 #2), it's nice indeed that the paper is available online at <www.shadesofsherlock.org/SOS18.pdf>. The Three Students Plus and Shades of Sherlock editor Bruce Kennedy had great fun in the long-ago days of the junior scions.

29. 221b Con ("a con for all things Sherlockian") has been announced for Apr. 13-14, 2013, at the Holiday Inn Select in Atlanta, arranged by Taylor Blumenberg (one of the Baker Street Babes), and an energetic committee; there's more information at their web-site <www.221bcon.com>.
30. The next "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Nov. 2-4, with participants at work solving the mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Trial of Moriarty's Challenge"; there also will be a performance of "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Norwood Builder" by the East Lynne Theater Company. Visit <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html> for more information on the weekend, or write to Box 340, Cape May, N.J. 08204.

31. Jan 13 #5: The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the winter issue offers Gayle Lange Puhl's report on the history of the Criterion Restaurant, which was frequented not only by Dr. Watson but also by Adam Worth, and Patricia Guy's account of the Sherlockian conference in Venice last year. Published quarterly, the Muse costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
32. A handsome four-volume boxed set of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES is available from Thomas & Mercer/Amazon in their "Heirloom Collection" for \$78.96 (\$2.99 Kindle), with attractive full-color illustrations by Jacqui Oakley. Thomas & Mercer is named for the streets that flank Amazon's headquarters in Seattle.
33. Peter Tremayne's AN ENSUING EVIL AND OTHERS (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2006; 331 pp., \$15.99) is a collection of 14 historical mysteries by the author of the "Sister Fidelma of Cashel" mysteries; five of the stories are reprints of Sherlockian pastiches set in Ireland (Tremayne believes that Holmes' background was Anglo-Irish).
34. Don Izban confirms that there will be a 25th-anniversary Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., in September or October; more information will be available this summer, and if you'd like to be on his mailing list, he's at 1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068.
35. The "Apollo Lunar Surface Journal" (an on-line record of the surface operations on the Moon from 1969 to 1972, edited by Eric M. Jones and Ken Glover) will be found at <www.nasa.gov>; search for [sherlock crater] to find Jones' account of "The Valley of Taurus-Littrow" with details on the Apollo 17 landing site and on the crater names. Other links include the Mission Transcripts: the last (and longest) contains discussion by Jack Schmitt (in the landing module on the Moon) and Joe Allen (at CapComm in Houston) that still holds the record for the longest-distance conversation about Sherlock Holmes. Thanks to Janice Portante, who reported about the NASA web-site in The Northumberland Dispatch (published by The Northumberland Fusiliers).
36. An exhibition on "Murder in the Library: An A-Z of Crime Fiction" opened at the British Library this month, and will run through May, offering a "journey through the development of crime and detective fiction," with Sherlock Holmes of course included (the manuscript of "The Retired Colourman" will be on display). There's more information about the exhibition and exhibition events at <www.tinyurl.com/cga7vj>, and Randall Stock has much about the manuscript at <www.tinyurl.com/bbr7zmj>.
37. One of my nicer Christmas presents was an imaginative one-of-a-kind "Sherlock Holmes" figurine sculpted by Deana Demko, who creates "little replicants" hand-made to order <www.littlereplicants.com>.
38. Ginger Aldrich continues to expand her Ocular Helmsman ("A Vade Mecum Upon the Personal Effects & Environs of Mssrs. Sherlock Holmes & John H. Watson of 221B Baker Street for the Victorian Layman"), and now includes scans of all of the public-domain Canon published in The Strand Magazine, in the Archives at <www.jadedcompass.com/ocular_helmsman>.

39. Jan 13 #6: Robert C. Burr ("The Rascally Lascar") died on Jan. 9. He was a chemist, and worked for the Dept. of Agriculture; Bob claimed "curmudgeon" as both his vocation and avocation, and happily (almost) never left Peoria. He was an energetic member of The Hansoms of John Clayton and an editor of their journal Wheelwrightings, and for many years Bob presided over his own Plugs & Dottles. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1987, and in 1990 "Robbie Burr" (attending the annual dinner as a life-size photograph) received the Irregular Ha'penny and the Investiture "The Trap Door" from The Baker Street Irregulars.
40. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards. Among them: Lyndsay Faye's non-Sherlockian THE GODS OF GOTHAM (best novel), James O'Brien's THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (best critical/ biographical), and Peter Blake's "Elementary: Child Predator" and Steven Moffat's "Sherlock: A Scandal in Belgravia" (best TV episode teleplay). Winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 26.
41. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-1.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, and commentary and challenges.
42. There are many Sherlockian blogs, including Leah Cummins Guinn's "The Well-Read Sherlockian" <www.wellreadsherlockian.com>; her "12th Night Giveaway" contest featured (on Jan. 1) an amusing publicity photograph of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce "rehearsing with the truly vicious Baskerville stunt doubles." Mary Loving won the photograph, and reported on it to The Hounds of the Baskerville.
43. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS, by Steve Hayes and David Whitehead (London: Robert Hale, 2012; 223 pp., £18.99), is a pastiche from two authors of westerns (Hayes also co-wrote the script for the 1979 film "Time After Time"); essentially a western set in Sherlockian London, with Holmes and Watson in pursuit of outlaws.
44. This year's "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Mar. 15-17 and Nov. 1-3; there will be a mystery ("Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Anima Orbis") to solve, and performances by the East Lynne Theater Company, and more information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204) (800-275-4278 ext 185) <www.capemaymac.org>.
45. Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975); the index is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).
46. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2012" has the theme "Deception", and the essays range from Ray Riethmeier's "A Double Deception" (about the "Mycroft" novel A TASTE FOR HONEY) to Phil Bergem's "Thoughts of Refuges in London" (about Holmes' hideaways). The 54-page booklet is available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122); \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).

47. Jan 13 #7: The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' seasonal commentary on Sherlockian Christmas cards, Dana Richards' discussion of Conan Doyle's involvement with divorce reform, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>).

48. Theodore G. Schulz ("The Amateur Mendicant Society") died on Jan. 24. Ted served with merit in the U.S. Army and then worked in education; he was in the Army in the Far East when he began corresponding with Edgar W. Smith in 1957, and was a member of The Illustrious Clients and then of many of the societies in the San Francisco Bay area. He also presided over The Praed Street Irregulars, succeeding Luther Norris as Lord Warden of the Pontine Marshes, founded The Old Soldiers of Praed Street; he proudly named his son William Sherlock Schulz, and was an energetic and generous collector with a legion of friends world-wide. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1961, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1986. There is much more about Ted at his fine web-site at <www.tedschulz.com>.
 49. Dr. William R. Hanson designed a nice cachet for last year's stamp honoring John Huston, showing him as Moriarty (in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" and Humphrey Bogart (who was directed by Huston in "The Maltese Falcon"). The first day cover costs \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.) with payment in currency or by U.S. postal money order sent to him at: 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, 12801.
 50. The Saturday Review of Literature has returned, and it's very nice to see it again: it was in its pages that The Baker Street Irregulars first came to the attention of literate readers, since Christopher Morley was one of the editors, and the Jan. 2013 issue (edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler) offers some interesting history and reviews. \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).
 51. Facebook is a social networking service that was launched in 2004 and now boasts more than 1 billion users, and Scott Monty maintains a growing list of "Sherlockian Entities on Facebook" at <www.tinyurl.com/azuk87m>, and of course allows you to add your group or page to the data-base.
 52. "To India with Sherlock Holmes" is the theme of the next pilgrimage by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, from Feb. 17 to Mar. 2, 2014; the tentative agenda includes a Victorian bathing party, a Holmes cricket match, a screening of an Indian-made Sherlock Holmes film, and a day at the races in Calcutta or Mumbai. Louise Nicholson <indianicholson@nyc.rr.com> will be glad to provide more information; a preliminary announcement of the event us at <www.sherlock-holmes.org/india.php>, and you can see details of some of her non-Sherlockian tours at her web-site <www.louiseindia.com>.
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53. Jan 13 #8: Doug Wrigglesworth reports that Peggy Perdue has selected some spectacular material from the Toronto Reference Library's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection for the new exhibition "Adventures with Sherlock Holmes: Life and Times of the Master Sleuth" in the library's new exhibition gallery through Mar. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/acvekyj>.
 54. The Veterans History Project (part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress) has added 14 scans of cartoons by Norman Schatell to its web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/ad8jndt>; the full-color cartoons are not Sherlockian, but instead date from his service in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946. Norm served as a gunner's mate in the Pacific, and it is delightful to see another aspect of his artistic humor.
 55. Thanks to the Société Sherlock Holmes de France you can watch one minute of Fox Film Corp. silent newsreel footage of Conan Doyle and his family (Lady Doyle and their children Adrian, Jean, and Denis) on June 24, 1922, as they prepared to return to Europe on board the Adriatic after the tour that he wrote about in OUR AMERICAN ADVENTURE (1923). You can watch the video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/a3adfv>, and read what the French wrote about it in their Ironmongers Daily News <www.tinyurl.com/aytnko>. They were also filmed by Pathé in New York in April, but that footage has been lost.
 56. Welcome to our new postage rates, now 46¢/ounce (domestic) and \$1.10 (international); the old rates were 45¢ (domestic), 85¢ (Canada and Mexico), and \$1.05 (overseas). Printing costs also have increased slightly, and the new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version of this newsletter are \$12.25 (domestic) and \$20.00 (international).
 57. Electronically enabled readers can read the newsletter on-line free: text of all issues from Mar. 1985 can be found at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.tinyurl.com/b6nka8l> and scans of issues from 2012 at "Sherlocktron" and the Red Circle of Washington's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/d8uo08o>. The increase in postage rates came as a surprise to anyone who didn't see the brief Associated Press report on an announcement from the Postal Service in October 2012.
 58. The next meeting of The Red Circle of Washington will be on Friday, March 8; our guest speaker will be drama critic and author Lloyd Rose, who will discuss "Sherlock Holmes on Television in the 21st Century". Details about the meeting will be found at the society's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>, which also has a link to the Smithsonian magazine excerpt from Dan Stashower's new book THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR.
 59. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) will honor the world's first forensic geologist with dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Pittsburgh on May 22, when local Sherlockians will have a chance to meet geologists who are in town for the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; if you would like to attend the festivities, just let me know.
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60. Feb 13 #1: Sorry about the calendar error: for those who want to plan ahead, The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will (correctly) be held on Jan. 17, 2014. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 11, 2014.
 61. And another correction: Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers by (by e-mail only) his 2013 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, and the recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
 62. The Baker Street Journal's web-site is well worth exploring, for selections from the BSJ, news about new publications by The Baker Street Irregulars, and the recent statement by Mike Whelan about "A World of Sherlockians" at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/sherlockians.html>.
 63. "And it is always 1895," as Vincent Starrett wrote in his classic sonnet; it's certainly 1895 this year, since the 1895 calendar works for 2013.
 64. Noted by Pam Verrey: Kaoru Shintani's YOUNG MISS HOLMES CASEBOOK 3-4 (New York: Seven Seas, 2012; 384 pp., \$16.99); the second volume of the English translation of her manga CHRISTIE: HIGH TENSION (2007-2008). Christie is the niece of Sherlock Holmes, and the book offers her own versions of some of her uncle's recorded cases.
 65. <www.contactmusic.com> has reported that the Nielsen numbers show that the episode of "Elementary" broadcast after the Super Bowl scored 20.8 million viewers (with a 7.8 rating for adults 18-49), making it the highest-rated entertainment broadcast of the year. But it's far from being the highest-rated post-Super-Bowl broadcast; that was an episode of "Friends" that had 42.9 million viewers in 1999. "Downton Abbey" on PBS-TV during the Super Bowl drew 6.6 million viewers on Sunday, the highest-rated program broadcast at the same time as the Super Bowl, which had 108.4 million viewers.
 66. Dhanil Ali's new play "The Curse of Sherlock Holmes" is about Jeremy Brett: "We find Jeremy entering the Maudsley psychiatric hospital. The combined strain of playing Holmes coupled with the death of his wife sees his mental health deteriorate as fiction blurs with reality." The play will tour

- from March 6 through 30 in Blakemere, Chester, Liverpool, Shrewsbury, and Warrington, and there's a web-site for the tour at <www.tinyurl.com/bggxesm>.
67. David Stuart Davies' 1992 pastiche THE TANGLED SKEIN: SHERLOCK HOLMES MEETS COUNT DRACULA (with a foreword by Peter Cushing) is now available as a Piccadilly Publishing e-book (\$2.99) at the usual U.K. and U.S. web-sites.
 68. Department of "what might have been": Douglas Wilmer, in a video interview in 2002, recalled that after he declined the second "Sherlock Holmes" series for the BBC in 1968, they offered the role to Eric Porter (who turned it down), and then to John Neville (who turned it down), and then to Peter Cushing (who agreed); John Neville had played Holmes in "A Study in Terror" (1965), and Eric Porter eventually played Moriarty in the Granada series.

 69. Feb 13 #2: "Sherlock Holmes Névében" [In the Name of Sherlock Holmes"] is a Hungarian film (Nov 11 #4) that premiered in 2011; "the movie follows two boys, Holmes and Watson, in their investigation into the disappearance of the city's children that eventually leads to a dark journey into the supernatural." The film has a web-site at <www.sherlockfilm.hu> and Greg Darak has reported a soundtrack CD released by Howlin' Wolf Records at <www.howlingwolfrecords.com> (\$13.95).
 70. Phillip Bergem has updated his two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean films and television programs, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles; they're available by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>, and at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>.
 71. Fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" will enjoy Guy Adams' SHERLOCK: THE CASEBOOK (London: BBC Books, 2012; 160 pp., £14.99); it's a fully illustrated examination of the first six programs in the series, imaginatively written with great humor in the voice of Watson. There will be an American edition from It Books/HarperCollins (\$17.99), due in July.
 72. Maria Konnikova's web-site <www.mariakonnikova.com> offers much about her new book MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jan 13 #4), including a blog with links to audio and video of her appearances on tour promoting the book; you can also listen to her interview for the London Guardian "Science Weekly" podcast at <www.tinyurl.com/argmbwl>.
 73. Plan ahead: PBS-TV has announced plans for a two-hour special on "How Sherlock Holmes Changed the World" to air this fall; the program "will reveal for the first time the astonishing impact that Holmes has had on the development of real criminal investigation and criminal techniques." The press release is at <www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr>.
 74. WINTER AT DEATH'S HOTEL, by Kenneth Cameron (London: Orion, 2011; 389 pp., £7.99) is set in New York in 1896, when Louisa Conan Doyle has accompanied her husband on a trip to the United States, where she becomes involved in investigating a series of murders; there's good description of New York at the end of the century, but it's a brutal book, not for the faint-hearted. And yes, he actually toured in 1894, and Louisa stayed home, but that was before Teddy Roosevelt became commissioner of police in New York City, as he is in this book.
 75. THE PERILS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Loren D. Estleman (Blue Ash: Tyrus Books, 2012; 208 pp., \$24.95), is a collection of short stories (and one amusing play), almost all reprinted from various Sherlockian anthologies. The play (subtitled "A Comedy in One Unnatural Act") has been performed many times by Sherlockian societies.
 76. "Mr. Selfridge" is the title of a new British (ITV) series that begins on PBS-TV on Mar. 31; it's the story of the "flamboyant and visionary American founder" of the department store in London. In the seventh episode Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (played by John Sessions) visits the store for a Sherlock Holmes book signing. Go to <www.tinyurl.com/aa2guym> to see what Sessions looks like as Conan Doyle.

 77. Feb 13 #3: Planning for the "Sherlock Holmes, Past and Present" conference in London on June 21-22 (Dec 12 #3) continues apace. "My Particular Friend" (an interesting blog by Jennifer Petkus) shows a colorful poster at <www.tinyurl.com/bdnf2ed>, and advance information for participants is available from Jonathan Cranfield <j.l.cranfield@ljmu.ac.uk>.
 78. "Search over 21,790,000 old New York State historical newspaper pages" is the offer from Old Fulton NY Post Cards <www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.htm>, and while I can't vouch for the 21,790,000 the data-base is delightful.
 79. Fred Dannay was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars, and with his cousin Manfred Lee wrote as Ellery Queen; you can see their sons Richard Dannay and Rand Lee in a nice 2-minute video tribute to Queen posted by Otto Penzler at his Mysterious Press web-site <www.tinyurl.com/afgznqf>.
 80. Otto also has been nominated for an Edgar (best critical/biographical) from the Mystery Writers of America (Jan 13 #6) for his editing of IN PURSUIT OF SPENSER: MYSTERY WRITERS ON ROBERT B. PARKER AND THE CREATION OF AN AMERICAN HERO.
 81. "The Sherlock Holmes Society of London 1959-1974" is a wonderful set of two DVDs issued in PAL format by the Society last year, and available only to members; it's a collection of films featuring members of the Society, made between 1959 and 1974, plus a collection of film coverage of the Society's first pilgrimage to Switzerland in 1968. If you're not already a member, you can join the society at their web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org> or by writing to David Jones, The North Wing, Groton Place, Groton Street, Groton, Boxford, Sudbury CO10 5EE, England, and the DVD set costs £16.50 (UK)/£17.00 (Europe)/\$36.00 (elsewhere), from Robert Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England <shsl221b@aol.com>.
 82. "Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" is a new play-reading series curated and introduced by Les Klinger (Sep 12 #4), and their first production will be Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" (1910) at the Contrapuntal Performance Hall in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles on Mar. 23. Details at their web-site <www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com>.
 83. The March-April issue of Harvard Magazine has an excerpt from Maria Konnikova's MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES, with imaginative artwork by Boris Kulikov; it won't reproduce well here, but you can see it in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/a4a4dd5>.
 84. Oscar Ross spotted news reports that the Café Royal is open again on Regent Street in London, now as a luxury five-star hotel <www.hotelcaferoyal.com>. Hotel publicity claims that Conan Doyle was a patron of the restaurant, and he may well have been; it was outside that Café Royal that Sherlock Holmes was attacked by two men armed with sticks (see "The Illustrious Client").
 85. Kent Ross reports that "The Untold Tales from the Tin Dispatch Box" will be the theme of the next "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 6-7, and there will be a meeting of The Wigmore Street Post Office on Apr. 5; the mailing list's maintained by Kent (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@gmail.com>.

 86. Feb 13 #4: Donald Thomas has earned a well-deserved reputation as the author of excellent pastiches, both short stories and novels, and his new novel DEATH ON A PALE HORSE: SHERLOCK HOLMES ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE (New York: Pegasus Books, 2013; 346 pp., \$25.95) offers an exciting account of Holmes and Watson's struggle against Sir Augustus Moran's elder son Rawdon Moran, even more dangerous a foe than his younger brother.
 87. Fans of Laurie R. King have a new e-book available: LAURIE R. KING'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (2013) is a collection of reprints of eight essays (\$2.99 for just about every device on the market). And MRS. HUDSON'S CASE (2012) is a short story in which Mrs. Hudson stars as the detective (\$0.99).

88. Don Hobbs' SHERLOCKING: AN ADVENTURE IN AESTHETIC SHERLOCKIAN REALISM is a collection of amusing drawings inspired by Chaim Koppleman, who defined the genre as "the oneness of opposites" (such as showing people in places they never visited), and the 216-page book is available from Don for \$29.99 plus shipping (\$4.00 to the U.S., more elsewhere); 2100 Elm Creek, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <221b@verizon.net>.
89. And Don continues to update "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes" (Jan 11 #7), now with 98 foreign languages (plus 8 versions of English such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and bibliographic information; the bibliography on CD costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere), or free to anyone who reports something not already in the bibliography).
90. The Beacon Society awards annual Jan Stauber Grants of up to \$350 to help fund development of projects that will introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories; the deadline for applications is May 1, and there is more information at <www.beaconsociety.com/JanStauberGrant.html>.
91. Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be produced at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre through Mar. 10 (22311 North Third Street, Hayward, CA 94546 (510-881-6777) <www.dmtonline.org>.
92. "Holmes & Watson Save the Empire: A Musical Mystery" (with book and lyrics by Jahnn Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner, is being performed at the First Impressions Theatre through Mar. 11; 4360 Gallant Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7G 1L2, Canada (604-929-9456) <www.firstimpressionstheatre.com>
93. Foyles, founded 110 years ago, has long been a landmark in London for book collectors and book buyers, offering more than 200,000 books in its flagship five-story building on Charing Cross Road, and it soon will be moving, just down the street, into better-designed premises. Graham and Lissa Muscatine, owners of Politics and Prose bookstore in Washington, have recently blogged about "The Bookstore of the Future", reporting on a conference that was arranged by Foyles to consider how bookstore can survive; you can read their report at <www.politic-prose.com/bookstore-future>.
94. An additional reason to visit the Toronto Reference Library's web-site for its exhibition "Adventures with Sherlock Holmes: Life and Times of the Master Sleuth" <www.tinyurl.com/acvekyj> is the Virtual Exhibit; you can click on that link and see some excellent images of material that's on display.
95. Feb 13 #5: SHERLOCK HOLMES IN PARIS, by Séamus Duffy (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2013; 255 pp., \$20.95) offers three pastiches, two from the unrecorded cases; Black Coat has published quite a few pastiches over the years, and is now making them available as e-books, including Frank J. Morlock's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GRAND HORIZONTALS (Mar 07 #1), Brian Stableford's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE VAMPIRES OF ETERNITY (Feb 09 #6). and two translations from the French by Morlock: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS JACK THE RIPPER and SHERLOCK HOLMES VS FANTOMAS. Details at <www.blackcoatpress.com> about these and other Sherlockian and Doylean titles.
96. The Shard is the informal name for the tallest building in London (in fact, in Europe) at 1,016 feet and with 72 floors of offices, restaurants, hotel rooms, residences, and observation lounges. And it costs £25.00 to get to the top floor, according to Will Pearson, who provides a 360-degree virtual tour at <www.tinyurl.com/74xk7ew>, where you can maneuver with your mouse and zoom in and out, and it's well worth a visit. Thanks to Dean Clark for reporting this.
97. "There is nothing new under the sun," Sherlock Holmes said (in "A Study in Scarlet"), but those who visited the dealers room during the birthday festivities in New York definitely saw something new (even if it was more than 70 years old). Javier Doria of Madrid displayed (and hoped to sell) a pair of metal plates apparently created in 1940 to celebrate Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. There's no firm information on the history of the plates, but there's some speculation on "The Mystery of the Two Irregular Plates" at Jon Lellenberg's Archival History web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/ajv9k6s>.
98. Feb 13 #6: THE BAKER STREET TRANSLATION, by Michael Robertson (New York: Minotaur, 2013; 278 pp., \$24.99) is the third in his series of novels about Reggie Heath, a London barrister who has offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail; this time Reggie and his brother Nigel and actress Laura Rankin are involved in a case that opens with a rich American who wants to bequeath her fortune to Sherlock Holmes and develops into a race to prevent an attack on a royal event. As with the first two books in the series, THE BAKER STREET LETTERS (Jun 09 #3) and THE BROTHERS OF BAKER STREET (Feb 11 #4), the story is imaginative and well told.
99. Howard Ostrom is an enthusiastic collector of autographs of actors who have played Holmes and Watson, and (thanks to the wonders of the Internet) you can tour his collection at <www.tinyurl.com/cano7js>. He has almost all of the usual suspects, and some surprising and interesting candidates as well.
100. Les Klinger has filed a lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate, asking a federal court to rule that the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson are no longer protected by federal copyright laws, and that writers, filmmakers, and others are free to create new stories about Holmes and Watson without paying license fees to the owners of the remaining copyrights on the stories. Les has a web-site at <www.free-sherlock.com> with more information about the suit, and Jennifer Schuessler's report for the N.Y. Times "ArtBeat" blog can be read at <www.tinyurl.com/brd6owa>.
101. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-2.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, commentary and challenges, and limited quantities of old Sherlockian lapel pins.
102. Frogwares Studio has announced that "Crimes & Punishments: Sherlock Holmes" will be the next title in its series of Sherlockian computer games. There are six games in the series so far, the most recent being "The Testament of Sherlock Holmes" <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com>.
103. For those who want to emulate Tonga: David Haugen notes that BLOWGUN TECHNIQUES: THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO MODERN AND TRADITIONAL BLOWGUN TECHNIQUES, by Anante P. Marinas Sr. (2010), is offered discounted to \$7.95 from Edward R. Hamilton <www.tinyurl.com/aeojn9o>.
104. Winston Churchill is of interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans for many reasons, among them the five letters from Churchill to Conan Doyle in the family papers sold at auction in 2004. And according to Rex Stout, Churchill "knew the Holmes stories fairly well and thought them 'perfect entertainment.'" While there's no Sherlockian connection to the widespread belief that Churchill kept secret a warning that German bombers were to bomb Coventry during World War Two in order to protect his secret intelligence, an interesting article by Peter J. McIver at the Churchill Centre and Museum web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2appa76> shows that the often-repeated story is not at all true.
105. Mar 13 #1: Lion Heart Autographs is offering a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for \$175,000 <www.tinyurl.com/cvxa6wc>; it's the first page of Chapter XIII ("Fixing the Nets"), included in Randall Stock's census as H31 <www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm>. A different page from the manuscript was sold at auction last December for \$158,500 (including the buyer's premium) (Dec 12 #2).
106. Conan Doyle's home at 12 Tennyson Road in Norwood, where he lived from 1891 to 1894, went to auction last month, estimated at £875,000; bidding reached £725,000, and the property didn't sell. The house, which displays a Greater London Council blue plaque noting that Conan Doyle lived there, was converted for use as a residential care home in the 1990s; according to an Internet post by the South Norwood Tourist Board, a company that

- provided autistic care "did a bunk a year ago, leaving the place empty," and the house is now an "absolute horror of a tip," divided into "cell-like one-room bedsits in a disgusting condition." The photographs below show the house as it was in 2007 (photographed by Roger Johnson), and as it is today.
107. The auction house then advertised the property as available for £750,000; it is quite likely that a buyer would be interested only in the land, and that the house is a tear-down. The official blue plaque was installed on May 18, 1973, and was reported in The Times on May 19 in an article imaginatively headlined "Case of the Left-Handed Arsenal Bricklayer".
 108. The manuscript of Conan Doyle's poem "Ypres" will be offered at auction at Bonhams in London on Apr. 10, estimated at £1,500-2,000. Details from the catalog at <www.tinyurl.com/crrg342>. Owned by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, it was last at auction in 2006, when it sold for £1,080 (including the buyer's premium). Randall Stock has information about the manuscript at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/200603bonhams.htm>.
 109. Members of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club have awarded the society's annual Sherlock Holmes Grand Prize to Jon Lellenberg, Dan Stashower, and Charles Foley, the editors of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (translated into Japanese by Masamichi Higurashi and published by Toro Shorin); over the past 35 years the winners of the Grand Prize have almost all been Japanese.
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110. Mar 13 #2: TO KEEP THE MEMORY GREEN, a collection of essays by friends and colleagues honoring the memory of Richard Lancelyn Green, was the published by The Quartering Press (a joint venture by The Baker Street Irregulars and The Sherlock Holmes Society of London) (Aug 07 #4). It was a splendid tribute, and copies found discovered in the BSI's warehouse are now available for \$15.00 (half-price) plus shipping from the BSI; goto the BSI web <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>; click on [items for sale] and then on [deal table]. Also available at the web-site is the lapel pin designed by Maggie Schpak for the "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" conference at UCLA last September (\$15.00).
 111. The script for Dhanil Ali's new play "The Curse of Sherlock Holmes" (Feb 13 #1) has been published (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 106 pp., £7.99/£8.99/\$10.95); it's an imaginative presentation of Jeremy Brett hospitalized and unable to distinguish between fiction and reality <www.mxpublishing.com>.
 112. Richard Briers died on Feb. 17. He had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, radio, and television, appearing as Hector MacDonald in 23 episodes of the BBC television series "Monarch of the Glen" (2000-2005), and on BBC Radio 4 in 11 episodes of "Two Pipe Problems" (2007-2012) as retired actor (and self-styled Sherlock Holmes) William Parnes.
 113. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London continues to offer interesting events <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/events.php>, including cricket matches on May 4 and June 23, and a running of the Silver Blaze Wessex Cup on June 18.
 114. Aziz Bin Adam has discovered A. J. Low's SHERLOCK SAM AND THE MISSING HEIRLOOM IN KATONG (Singapore: Epigram Books, 2012; 105 pp., S\$10.59); Sherlock Sam is Singapore's greatest kid detective, assisted by a robot Watson, and there's a second volume SHERLOCK SAM AND THE GHOSTLY MOANS IN FORT CANNING. Sherlock Sam has a blog at <www.sherlocksam.wordpress.com>.
 115. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-3.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, commentary and challenges, and limited quantities of old Sherlockian lapel pins.
 116. The Chorley Little Theatre will present a new dramatization of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES by Mark Jones, June 17-22. Dole Lane, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 2RL, England (01257-264362) <www.chorleylittletheatre.com>.
 117. Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in the 1890s, are the protagonists in short stories and novels written by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini; their latest is THE BUGHOUSE AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2013; 269 pp., \$24.99), which offers lots of local color and an imaginative appearance by a rival detective who claims to be Sherlock Holmes.
 118. Thanks to Tom Drucker for a copy of Lisa Berglund's interesting article "'I Am Lost Without My Boswell': Samuel Johnson and Sherlock Holmes" in The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual (Dec. 2012); the article's not available online, and the journal is published by AMS Press, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Bldg 292 #417, 63 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205.
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119. Mar 13 #3: The next annual STUD-Watsonian Weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Oct.25-27, with a dinner, the 54th annual running of The Silver Blaze, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net> will be happy to send you a reservation form.
 120. "You are in for an absolute stonker!" Benedict Cumberbatch said after the read-through for the first program in the new series of "Sherlock" for the BBC (there's more than one meaning for "stonker" according to the on-line Urban Dictionary); filming on the new series began on Mar. 18. And there's some additional news: Cumberbatch has said that he and Martin Freeman have signed to make a fourth series, and that he'd love to do a fifth series.
 121. "Lego Sherlock Holmes Outed in Lego City: Undercover?" was the headline on a report from NowGamer on Mar. 14 that suggested that "Lego Sherlock Holmes could be the next licensed Lego game coming from Travellers Tales, according to teasers in Lego City: Undercover." And now for some explanation: "Lego City: Undercover" is a new action-adventure video game designed for the Wii U video-game console from Nintendo. NowGamer's Alex Evans spotted Lego's (Sherlockian) Detective (Sep 11 #4) on a billboard in the background of a scene in the new game, and asked Nintendo if a Sherlock Holmes game would be coming next; Nintendo declined to comment. You can read the full story (and see a better screenshot) of the billboard) at <www.tinyurl.com/a3rsgwp>.
 122. Don Libey, author of THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Sep 12 #5) and Don and Joanne Yates have launched an imaginative enterprise: 221B Cellars, which each year will offer bottles of limited first edition wines. Their web-site at <www.221bcellars.com> is well worth exploring, and there's an essay contest offering the winner a bottle of the 2103 vintage.
 123. Don Libey also is a bookseller, and is offering items from Don Yates' Sherlockian collection at <<http://www.tinyurl.com/a2m28o3>>.
 124. Credit Philip J. Atwell for the discovery that some of the Moriarty's were good guys, including C. C. H. Moriarty, author of POLICE LAW: ARRANGEMENT OF LAW AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF POLICE OFFICERS (1929), written, according to the author, "with the view of assisting police officers in attaining a working knowledge of the law that they have to enforce." Cecil Charles Hudson Moriarty distinguished himself at Trinity College in Dublin, and joined the Royal Irish Constabulary in 1902, advancing to the rank of Chief Constable in 1935; he retired in 1941 and died in 1958, and his book went through 24 editions, the latest published in 1981.
 125. Rex Stout is famous for creating Nero Wolfe (who many Sherlockians like to believe is the son of Sherlock Holmes), but Stout was an excellent writer before Nero Wolfe; some of Stout's earlier stories have been reprinted as e-books by Otto Penzler's Mysterious Press <www.mysteriouspress.com>, and they're well worth a look. The same is true of the Mysterious Bookshop's monthly newsletter, which always offers Sherlockiana; you can sign up for the newsletter at <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
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126. Mar 13 #4: You now have a chance to buy Baskerville Hall (one of them, at any rate): Baskerville Hall (formerly Clyro Court) near Hay-on-Wye is available with an asking price of £3 million, according to a story at Wales Online <www.tinyurl.com/c75benv>. The mansion (presently used as a hotel) has nine bedroom suites, five principal reception rooms, and much more; the agents are Russell Baldwin & Bright, and there's a detailed description, with many photographs, at <www.tinyurl.com/d6v84bu>. The Baskerville family lived there from 1839 to 1945, and the owners have said for many years that Conan Doyle visited the family often, finding inspiration there for his story (the family asked Conan Doyle to change the setting so that they wouldn't be overrun by tourists).
 127. Ben Langley's comedy "Ha Ha Holmes! The Beast of the Blistervilles" (Mar 11 #1) has been retitled "Ha Ha! Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" and will tour in Britain beginning Sept. 14; details at <www.hahaholmes.com>. Thanks to Oscar Ross for the report.
 128. SHERLOCK HOLMES: HIS GREATEST CASES (London, White's Books, 2009; 501 pp., £19.95) is an attractive collection, with "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and Conan Doyle's selection of "the twelve best Sherlock Holmes stories," an afterword by Andrew Lycett, and a handsome binding illustrated by Michael Kirkham.
 129. A new edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES in two volumes from Barnes & Noble (2012, \$6.98 per volume) has introductions and afterwords (different in each volume) and annotations by Christopher and Barbara Roden.
 130. "The Ghost of Sherlock Holmes" is 28-page PDF file offered by magician Paul Voodini at <www.readerofminds.co.uk> for £5.00; described as "a compendium of Sherlock Holmes-inspired bizarre and story-telling magic utilizing playing cards, pendulums, and other common objects," the booklet includes both patter and instructions on how to do the magic.
 131. After 17 episodes, the CBS-TV series "Elementary" is averaging 11.02 million viewers, with a rating of 2.35 in the important age 18-49 demo, beating all the other programs in its Thursday-evening time slot.
 132. The Huntsville-Madison County Library in Huntsville, Ala., has chosen THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES for its month-long "community read" in April, with book discussions, film screenings, and imaginative events for adults, teens, and children and family. Their web-site <www.guides.hmpl.org/cr13> offers an overview of what they have planned.
 133. Frank Thornton died on Mar. 16. He had a long career on stage and in films and television, and was best known as Captain Peacock in the television series "Are You Being Served?" (1972-1985); he also played the one-armed doorman at the Diogenes Club in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
 134. The Popular Culture Association met in Washington this month, and the program included a session on "Sherlock" with papers by Rebecca McLaughlin ("A Study in Sherlock"), Nancy Steffen-Fluhr ("The Semiotics of Desire: Billy Wilder as Sherlock Holmes"), and Rachele Hansen ("Sherlock Holmes"). More anon, if someone reports on the session.
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135. Mar 13 #5: And there's more news about the BBC series "Sherlock": Mark Gatiss has revealed the title of the opening episode of the third season. Fans of the series will recall that the second season ended with "The Reichenbach Fall" and the next season will begin with a delightful and thoroughly appropriate pun: "The Empty Hearse".
 136. John Aidiniantz, who founded the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Baker Street in 1990, is the target of a lawsuit brought by his mother Grace Riley and her daughter Jennifer Decoteau over who is entitled to almost £2 million in admission fees collected in the last two years; the High Court has issued an injunction freezing his assets, including £535,000 that he kept a safe in his home. The case is scheduled to be heard in May. According to a report in The Times (Feb. 28), when the women found last October that only 22p remained in the Museum's bank account, Mrs. Riley withdrew £175,000 from the bank account of Rollerteam Limited (an Aidiniantz company that deals in the "operation of arts facilities"), and her assets also have been frozen.
 137. Morphe Graffiti will present "The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes" (Leslie Bricusse's revision of his "Sherlock Holmes: the Musical") at Hoxton Hall from Apr. 10 to May 10. 130 Hoxton Street, London, N1 6SH, England (020-7684-0060) <www.hoxtonhall.co.uk>.
 138. Jan Read died on Nov. 29, 2012. He began his career as a scriptwriter in 1949, and is best known for helping create the character of Dixon of Dock Green, who was featured in a BBC television series that ran for more than twenty years; he also wrote the scripts for Peter Cushing's "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "The Retired Colourman" (1965).
 139. The Royal Family visited the Baker Street Station this month, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the London Underground, and they were welcomed by Sherlock Holmes (or someone dressed like him), as you can see (briefly) in video posted by the Times of Malta (Mar. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/c9cmdv3>.
 140. Al and Julie Rosenblatt have just discovered on the Gotham Radio Theatre, a bit too late for their production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Speckled Band" this month. Their web-site <www.gothamradiotheatre> is well worth exploring: click on "Sherlock Holmes!" for information on a previous Sherlockian production ("Redheads and Bohemians"), and on "More" and then on "Podcasts" to hear their podcast of the earlier show.
 141. Does anyone know if Julian Wolff's many interests included Lewis Carroll? I've been asked about a bookplate that apparently has Julian's signature, with artwork and verse from "The Walrus and the Carpenter".
 142. Ken Ludwig's comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" had its world premiere in Cleveland in November 2011, winning an Edgar (best play) from the Mystery Writers of America, and it now has its second production, at the Asolo Repertory Theatre; it opened on Mar. 27 and runs through May 12. It's a new (and much better) version of his earlier play "Postmortem" (about a murder at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme), and highly recommended. 555 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34243 (941-351-8000) <www.asolorep.org>. There's a preview of the play in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune (Mar. 23) at <www.tinyurl.com/cy9yswk>.
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143. Mar 13 #6: Mark Catley's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Best Kept Secret" will have its premiere at the West Yorkshire Playhouse on May 18 through June 8 (Mycroft is arrested for treason, and Holmes, assisted by Watson and Irene Adler, must save Mycroft's life); Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UP, England (0113-213-7700) <www.wyp.org.uk>. After the premiere the play will tour to Woking, Cardiff, and Manchester.
 144. Brian W. Pugh's A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (May 09 #5) was a valuable resource for those interested in Conan Doyle's life and work, and a new revised and expanded edition (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 267 pp., £14.99/£16.99/\$22.95) is even more valuable, with a detailed index, citations of sources, excellent illustrations, and an impressive list of the many statues and plaques that honor Conan Doyle, his daughter Jean, Holmes, and Watson in Britain, the U.S., Australia, Japan, France, Italy, Russia, and Switzerland <www.mxpublishing.co.uk> <www.mxpublishing.com>.
 145. Also from MX Publishing: Charlotte Anne Walter's 56 SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES IN 56 DAYS (2012; 184 pp., £9.99); the author of BAREFOOT ON BAKER STREET (2011) has collected her blogs about the short stories, and has added comments on the long stories, and has made some interesting choices in rating the stories for best and worst. Kevin McMullen's THE MANY WATSONS (2012; 149 pp., £7.99) is a collection of 53 essays about actors

- who have played Watson on stage, screen, radio, television, and YouTube; some of them male and some female, some major and some minor, but all offering a nice reminder of the different ways in which Watson has been portrayed. Luke Benjamin Kuhns' *SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE CASE OF THE CRYSTAL BLUE BOTTLE* (2012, 38 pp., £6.99) is a graphic novel, with illustrations and artwork from a dozen Internet contributors.
146. And: *THE LOST STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Tony Reynolds (2012; 210 pp., £9.99); the first edition was published in 2010 with eight pastiches, and this second edition includes one additional story. *THE ART OF DEDUCTION: A SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION*, edited by Hannah Rogers (2013; 176 pp., £9.99), is a collection of vignettes, artwork, and poems. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TEXAS ADVENTURE*, by Dicky Neely (2012; 110 pp., £6.99), brings Holmes and Watson to Texas, via Portsmouth, New Orleans, and Corpus Christi, and lets them play cowboy. *SHERLOCK HOLMES: HAVE YOURSELF A CHAOTIC LITTLE CHRISTMAS*, by Gwendolyn Frame (2012; 125 pp., £6.99); a collection of Christmas advent-calendar vignettes.
147. "Devotees of Sherlock Holmes are a famously obsessive bunch," according to Jennifer Schuessler, in her follow-up story in the N.Y. Times on the lawsuit Les Klinger filed against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (Feb 13 #6). You can read the new story at <www.tinyurl.com/aoubs3t>.
148. eBay can be addictive, especially since it operates in more than 30 countries. If you can't find what you're looking for at <www.ebay.com>, there also are <www.ebay.co.uk>, <www.ebay.fr>, <www.ebay.dk>, <www.ebay.de>, and many more. Thanks to Walt Colby of The Baker Street Breakfast Club for the reminder about how wide-spread eBay is.
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149. Apr 13 #1: Boris Berezovsky died on Mar. 23. A Russian tycoon who became wealthy during the privatization of Soviet assets during the 1990s, and was one of the "political oligarchs" who picked Vladimir Putin as the head of the Russian state; Berezovsky then fell out with Putin, fled to London, sought political asylum, and then aligned himself with other critics of Putin. Nikita Krushchev's son Sergei once said that Berezovsky was "the Professor Moriarty of the 21st Century" (Feb 00 #2). The police consider his death to be "unexplained," and have launched an investigation.
150. "He had a remarkable gentleness and courtesy in his dealings with women," Watson wrote of Holmes (in "The Dying Detective"). Of course that's only one side of the coin: Watson continued with "He disliked and distrusted the sex." And then Watson went on to write that Holmes "was always a chivalrous opponent." So much contradiction in two sentences.
151. Tina Rhea has spotted some interesting "wallpaper": a montage of 30 people who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes (with pop-up identifications) created by Mark C. Robinson, at <www.tinyurl.com/d8xu4ma>. Similar wallpaper with 30 Watsons will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/ctoka4k>.
152. The Geographic Names Information System maintained by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names now contains entries for more than 2 million features in the U.S., 37 of them named Sherlock (or variants thereof). The data base also shows 11 features named Sherlock in other countries, and you can search for Sherlock (or any other name) at <www.tinyurl.com/d6nvf6p>.
153. If you're planning a trip to Hungary: there's now a Sherlockian society in Budapest. Zsófia Marinczák <zmarinczak@gmail.com> is the contact for the Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club.
154. There has been plenty of news for television fans. The "Elementary" series has been renewed by CBS (not surprising considering how well it has done in the ratings). And Martin Freeman's long-time partner Amanda Abbington will be in the first episode of the new season of "Sherlock" in a role that will "significantly impact" the lives of Watson and Holmes, which has triggered a flood of suggestions that she will play Mary Morstan, which seems to be quite likely, since it has been revealed that the title of the second episode in the season will be "The Sign of Three".
155. Sarawen Perfume Art sells a set of four "Sherlock Holmes Inspired Perfumes" (\$48.50 for all four in 5-ml bottles); the names of the scents are "Logical Delusion", "Logical Deduction", "Scandal in London", and "Tea with Watson", and their web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/cdgct8t> has an artistic photograph of the bottles.
156. Conan Doyle knew Eugen Sandow and Harry Houdini, and is mentioned in John F. Kasson's *HOUDINI, TARZAN, AND THE PERFECT MAN: THE WHITE MALE BODY AND THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNITY IN AMERICA* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2001; 286 pp., \$18.00); Sandow was "the perfect man" (and an inspiration for Angelo Siciliano, who is better known as Charles Atlas), and Kasson offers an interesting exploration of turn-of-the-century sociology.
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157. Apr 13 #2: Reported by Andrew Malec: *PETER CUSHING: THE COMPLETE MEMOIRS* (London: Titan, 2013; 424 pp., £19.99); a reprint of his memoirs (AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY and PAST FORGETTING) with extensive new material from his private collection (there's an American edition due from Signum). And: *PETER CUSHING: A LIFE IN FILM*, by David Miller (London: Titan, 2013; 1,928 pp., £18.99); with previously unpublished correspondence and new interviews with Cushing's friends and colleagues. Cushing has portrayed both Sherlock (on screen and in television) and Conan Doyle (in television).
158. Tina Rhea has reported some spectacular color photographs of jellyfish published by The Guardian (Feb. 26) at <www.tinyurl.com/a8e2s7m>; half of them are lion's manes.
159. Forecast by Roger Johnson: *FORGOTTEN STARS*, by Jonathan Croall (from Fantom Films in June, £16.99); a biography of his father John Stuart, who played Sir Henry Baskerville in Robert Rendell's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1932). Fantom also sells a recording of *PATRICK TROUGHTON: THE BIOGRAPHY*, by Michael Troughton (£17.99); about his father, who played the second Doctor Who, and Mortimer Tregennis in Douglas Wilmer's "The Devil's Foot" for the BBC-1 (1965).
160. Roger edits The District Messenger, a newsletter that was launched in 1982 as the "grapevine service" of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London; it's available free via e-mail <rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk>, and all of the back issues are archived at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php>. It's an excellent round-up of what's going on in the Sherlockian and Doylean world in Britain and elsewhere.
161. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-4.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, limited quantities of old Sherlockian lapel pins, and a link to color photographs of Denny Dobry's spectacular full-scale reproduction of the sitting-room at 221b Baker Street.
162. Frank Mentzel has reported Adagio Teas at <www.adagio.com>, where you can search for [sherlock] and find a wide range of teas (including one called "Moriarte") inspired by the BBC "Sherlock" series.
163. "Sometimes I wake up and think, I want to look like Sherlock Holmes today," British cover girl Edie Campbell told Vogue (Mar. 27), "and other times I want to look like a witch from Macbeth." Alas, no pictures are available showing just how she's inspired by Baker Street or Scotland.
164. Noted by Marsha Pollak: Simon Rich's pastiche "The Adventure of the Spotted Tie", in his collection *THE LAST GIRLFRIEND ON EARTH* (New York: Reagan Arthur Books, 2013; 224 pp., \$19.99).
165. W. P. Lawler's *MYSTERY AT ST. ANDREWS* (2012; 241 pp., \$14.95 postpaid) is a pastiche written by a golf enthusiast for golf enthusiasts; Watson visits St. Andrews and plays a lot of golf (there's a glossary by way of assistance for ordinary folk) and with Holmes and Irene Adler becomes involved in a battle against evil-doers. Available from the author: Bill Lawler, 208 Hilltop Drive, West Wyoming, PA 18644 <rankambill@comcast.net>.
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166. Apr 13 #3: Basil Copper died on Apr. 4. He was a writer, journalist, and editor, and had a long relationship with August Derleth's Arkham House. Copper was the author of many macabre stories and novels, and mysteries, and extended the world of Derleth's Solar Pons, editing (and revising) THE SOLAR PONS OMNIBUS (1982) and writing his own series of stories about Solar Pons.
 167. Catherine Cooke has discovered a new "Sherlock" (a centralized knowledge management system launched last year by the National Health Service's Business Services Authority). The new system has won an award from the Customer Contact Association, and you can read about "Sherlock" at <www.tinyurl.com/d5j96ha>; extra points to anyone who can figure out just how it works.
 168. The manuscript of Conan Doyle's poem "Ypres" at auction at Bonhams in London on Apr. 10, and estimated at £1,500-2,000 (Mar 13 #1), sold for £5,250 (including the buyer's premium). Randall Stock has more detailed information about the manuscript, and its history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/200603bonhams.htm>.
 169. Hugh Ashton's TALES FROM THE DEED BOX OF JOHN H. WATSON MD (Torrance: Inkbeans Press, 2012; 140 pp., \$8.99) offers three pastiches, two of them inspired by the Unrecorded Cases. Information on Ashton, and on other Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian titles, is at <www.tinyurl.com/cb63453>.
 170. It has been quite a while since we have seen a Sherlockian story for children, David Ruffle's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MISSING SNOWMAN fills the bill nicely; it's a sentimental story with charming illustrations by Rikey Austin (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 32 pp., £6.99/£7.99/\$9.95). The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk> and <www.mxpublishing.com>.
 171. Also from MX Publishing: THE DETECTIVE, THE WOMAN, AND THE WINKING TREE, by Amy Thomas (2013; 197 pp., £9.99), is a sequel to her THE DETECTIVE AND THE WOMAN (Apr 12 #7) and has Holmes and Watson paying a visit to Irene Adler in Fulworth, and the three of them solving a complicated local murder mystery. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE BULGARIAN CODEX, by Tim Symonds (2012; 168 pp., £7.99); Holmes and Watson on a scenic journey to Sofia, with lots of local color and with a grotesque mystery to solve. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND YOUNG WINSTON: THE JUBILEE PLOT, by Mike Hogan (2013; 243 pp., £9.99), has Holmes and Watson, assisted by twelve-year-old Winston Churchill, foiling a fiendish (and complicated) plot during Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee; the web-site is at <www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk>.
 172. And: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE EDINBURGH HAUNTING, by David Wilson (2012; 210 pp., £9.99), has Holmes and Watson solving a mystery in Edinburgh, where Watson's cousin has invited them so that they can meet Dr. Joseph Bell, who wants to meet the man who is using Bell's methods (Holmes, of course, wants to meet the man who is using Holmes' methods in the practice of medicine); their meeting is unfortunately brief, but nicely done. THE 1895 MURDER, by Dan Andriacco (2012; 227 pp., £9.99), is the third in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, and McCabe's new Sherlockian play "1895"; there's a murder (of course), and amusing sub-plots; Dan has an entertaining blog at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.
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173. Apr 13 #4: LAURIE R. KING'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (2013; 213 pp.) is a welcome collection of eight essays and introductions, all of them previously published, but not necessarily in easily accessible sources; \$2.99 as an e-book, \$9.95 at stores with print-on-demand Espresso Book Machines, and signed copies are available from Bookshop Santa Cruz. Details at her web-site at <www.laurierking.com>.
 174. "Benefit Presents the Curious Case" is the title of a Sherlockian 2-minute video promotion uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/c6w7tv2>. The Chinese version was uploaded on Mar. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/cuzebek>.
 175. BOBBY BASKERVILLE SOLVES A CASE, by Richard L. Kellogg, illustrated by Gary Kato (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2013; 28 pp., \$9.99), is another fine book for young readers, with an interesting story and attractive artwork. Bobby (needless to say) wants to be a detective, and (of course) succeeds.
 176. The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Chris Redmond's discussion of the Canonical and other aspects of THE PARASITE, Donny Zaldin's exploration of the "dancing men" cipher (the Collection now owns young John Gilbert Cubitt's album, which offered inspiration for the cipher), and much more new from and about the Collection; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
 177. The Promethean Theatre Ensemble will perform "A Study in Scarlet" from May 3 to June 1. Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 North Southport Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647 (773-935-6860) <www.prometheantheatre.org>; it's a new dramatization by Paul Edwards.
 178. Novel Poster offers interesting "book posters", one of them being a framed silhouette of Sherlock Holmes composed of the entire text of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (\$40.00) <www.tinyurl.com/bva4znm>.
 179. The John H. Watson Society, which "seeks a level of equality in scholarship and enthusiasm for the life and work of John H. Watson, M.D.," will publish a scholarly journal "The Watsonian" twice a year; the society's web-site at <www.johnhwatsonociety.com> has information on dues and such. Don Yates is the founding chairman <info@johnhwatsonociety.com> (the web-site notes that "it's always 1895; there are no telephones yet," and they'll welcome submissions for the journal).
 180. Philip K. Jones' data-base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has more than 10,000 entries; it's available at Miguel Herrero Baena's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.es/database.php> and Christopher and Barbara Roden's web-site <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm>.
 181. MC Black reports that the "Sherlock Holmes: Past and Present" conference at the University of London on June 21-22 (Feb 12 #3) now has its own web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/czy3ft9>. And his Detective Walks is offering a guided walk during the evening of June 20 to places mentioned in the Canon and of importance in Conan Doyle's life; more information is available on request from MC at <mc.black@hardknott.org>.
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182. Apr 13 #5: The Croydon Advertiser reported (Apr. 15) that plans have been submitted to Croydon Council to turn Conan Doyle's former home in Norwood into a 12-bedroom apartment building. The building, which was described (Mar 13 #1) as an "absolute horror of a tip," divided into "celllike one-room bedsits in a disgusting condition," did not sell when bidding reached £725,000 at auction earlier this year, and it's now on the market with an asking price of £750,000. Some locals, as might be expected, want the house to be restored to a one-family home; according to a British realty web-site, one-bedroom apartments on Tennison Road are available priced from £162,995 to £164,950 (multiply by 12 to see what a 12-apartment building might be worth). A five-bedroom semi-detached house on Tennison Road is available for £379,950.
 183. The Illustrious Clients News reports that two Sherlockian rooms, created by Laverne Sullivan, are being showcased at the Museum of Miniature Houses in Carmel, Ind.; go to <www.museumofminiatures.org/exhibits.html> and scroll down to find links to photographs of Holmes sitting-room and bedroom.
 184. Stephanie Osborn reports that 221bCon ("a con for all things Sherlockian") in Atlanta on Apr. 13-14 (Jan 13 #4) was thoroughly successful: they filled the convention hotel and alternate hotels, and wound up with about 1,000 on hand; their web-site's at <www.221bcon.com>. There's an article about the convention at <www.tinyurl.com/c6l3zjw>. Brad Keefauver also was on hand for the festivities, and blogged about it several times at Sherlock Peoria <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com>; check April, and look for the 221B Con entries.

185. One of the interesting items owned by the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library is the diary kept by Conan Doyle's wife Jean on their trip to Canada in 1914. And thanks to the wonders of modern technology you don't need to travel to Toronto to read the diary, which has been scanned and is available at <www.tinyurl.com/bn7x4x2>. There's a sliding bar at the top that allows you to navigate from page to page, image notes you can click on for more information, and a button at the top that brings up a transcript of each page. It's a fine example of what libraries can do to display material on the Internet.
186. The Royal Mail's set of stamps honoring Eminent Britains that was issued in 2009 included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and this month's set honoring Great Britons includes Peter Cushing (who was born in 1913). He played Sherlock Holmes three times, in the film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), in a BBC television series (1968), and in the television film "The Masks of Death" (1984); he was scheduled to play Holmes for the fourth time, in a sequel ("The Abbot's Cry"), but he retired in 1987, explaining that it was time to "nail my toupee to the wall." Cushing also played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the television film "The Great Houdinis" (1976).
187. ENCOUNTERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by George Mann (London: Titan Books, 2013; 352 pp., \$14.95), is an imaginative anthology of pastiches by authors from the worlds of steampunk, fantasy, and science fiction; the stories involve notables such as Sir Richard Burton and Raffles, Mrs. Hudson as a detective, and a Martian.

188. Apr 13 #6: OSCAR WILDE AND THE MURDERS AT READING GAOL, by Gyles Brandreth (New York: Touchstone, 2013; 327 pp., \$18.00), is the sixth in his series about Wilde and Conan Doyle (who is mentioned only occasionally this time); the story is told by Wilde, who has been convicted and imprisoned, and solves a series of murders at Reading Gaol. It's a dark story, with a detailed view of how brutal prison life was in Britain at the end of the 19th century, and it's imaginative and well-written, with a surprising twist as a finale. The story ends the arc of Wilde's life, but there may be more books in the series: Brandreth has said that eventually "it's back to Oscar and Arthur. I think it has to be." And the next book will be well worth waiting for.
189. THE AYLESFORD SKULL, by James P. Blaylock (London: Titan Books, 2013; 425 pp., \$14.95), is an entertaining adventure in which Arthur Conan Doyle is one of the supporting characters (on behalf of the good guys, of course); steampunk is a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes, and you'll find much more about steampunk projects at <www.steampunkholmes.com>.
190. "Sherlock Hemlock: World's Greatest Detective" is an interesting article by Ryan Dosier at the Mystery Scene web-site <www.tinyurl.com/dxafigan>. It's reprinted from Dosier's blog The Muppet Mindset ("the go-to blog for everything Muppet") <www.themuppetmindset.blogspot.com>, where there's lots more about Sherlock Hemlock, and other Muppets such as Baskerville the Hound and Spamela Hamderson.
191. Irving Kamil ("Monsieur Oscar Meunier, of Grenoble") died on Apr. 26. Irv wrote often for The Baker Street Journal and Baker Street Miscellanea, and was for many years one of the sparking plugs for Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers. Irv and Selma travelled widely over the years, creating ad hoc Sherlockian societies at the Great Wall of China, on the Amazon, and in Sicily, Thailand, New Zealand, Vietnam, Jordan, Antarctica, the Galapagos, and other exotic locales, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1981.
192. Andrew Lane, who has written five books in his YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series, has turned his attention to Young Calum Challenger, who is the great grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger. LOST WORLDS (London: Macmillan, 2013; 357 pp., £5.99) is the story of an expedition into the Caucasus in search of a supposedly mythological creature in hopes that its DNA will be useful (and that it can be protected); the book's principal characters are mostly teenagers, occasionally in dire peril, and the story's well told.
193. THE BEST OF THE STRAND MAGAZINE, with an introduction by Andrew Roberts, is a digital book from Endeavour Press (£2.99/\$3.99) that offers a fine essay on "The Story of the Strand" (the street rather than the magazine) and text (without illustrations) of a dozen articles and stories, including "Silver Blaze" and an article on "A Night in an Opium Den" that was published not long before Conan Doyle wrote "The Man with the Twisted Lip".

194. May 13 #1: The deadline for the trade-in offer for the new eBSJ v2 has been extended to June 15; the DVD has all issues of The Baker Street Journal through 2011 in PDF format, and is nicely done indeed. The price is \$149.95, but there is a trade-in offer open to those who already have the old BSJ CD-ROM set (send in your old disk #4 and the price is only \$49.95); more information is available at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/ebooks/ebsj.html>. Don't neglect the link to Randall Stock's helpful "Tips for using the eBSJ".
195. The Baker Street Irregulars are going to publish a biography of Bliss Austin, which will be written by Sonia Fetherston; readers of The Baker Street Journal will be familiar with her work, and she invites Sherlockians worldwide to share personal reminiscences of Bliss with her. Sonia's e-mail address is <soniafetherston@comcast.net>.
196. There's a lot to be found at YouTube, including an amusing French animation "Les Dalton contre Sherlock Holmes" ["The Daltons vs. Sherlock Holmes"], an episode from the series "Les Nouvelles Aventures de Lucky Luke" (broadcast on France 3 on Sept. 23, 2001 <www.tinyurl.com/cns42zx>.
197. Further to the report on the British stamp honoring Peter Cushing as one of the "Great Britons" (Apr 13 #5), the stamp is a composite: the portrait is a studio publicity photograph for "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), obtained from a commercial archive (not identified here because they wanted to be paid to let you see the photograph, and I ain't gonna give them publicity), with the background imagery showing the Baker Street address added for the stamp. Cushing doesn't wear such a hat in the film, but he can be seen wearing one in posters.
198. Nancy J. Parra's GLUTEN FOR PUNISHMENT (New York: Berkley, 2013; 304 pp., \$7.99) is the first in her "Baker's Treat Mystery" series (a cozy mystery series set in a gluten-free bakery), apparently non-Sherlockian except for the nicely punned series title. Her web-site's at <www.nancyjparra.com>.
199. Ray Harryhausen died on May 7. His stop-motion photography was a staple of fantasy and science-fiction films for decades, in a career launched when at the age of four he saw Willis H. O'Brien's work in "The Lost World" (1925); "I always remember the dinosaur falling off the cliff," Harryhausen said in an interview in 2001. He also made some brief test footage at the end of the 1970s for a new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that was to star Peter Cushing.
200. Further to the review of Andrew Lane's LOST WORLDS (Apr 13 #6), there's a colorful web-page for the book at <www.panmacmillan.com/lostworlds> with attractive artwork, imaginative links, a game, and much more.
201. "You know a talk on a new book isn't going to go well when the crowd comes clutching a pile of your old DVDs," Anthony Horowitz told the Sunday Telegraph (Mar. 4, 2012), discussing what he described as a "recent disastrous Sherlock Holmes tour." Horowitz was touring to promote his pastiche novel THE HOUSE OF SILK, but his fans were more interested his television series "Foyle's War". Thanks to John Baesch for the report.

202. May 13 #2: The Exhibits Development Group has announced the world premiere of The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10. There's a web-site at <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com> with a link to a press release on the exhibition, which will tour ten cities in North America before touring overseas. The forward schedule already also includes Columbus, Ohio; Dallas, Texas; and Santa Ana, Calif.

203. The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars will hold a meeting in Chicago on June 30, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, during the annual meeting of the American Library Association. Additional information is available from Marsha Pollak <mpollak@sunnyvale.ca.gov>.
 204. BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: BEHIND THE SCENES, by Neil Simpson, is a digital book from Endeavour Press (£1.99/\$2.99) that includes discussion of his life and his career, including but not limited to his work in "Sherlock".
 205. "What is your favorite book?" "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." From a Q&A interview in The Guardian (Apr. 19) with Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, formerly a model and a folk singer, and now the wife of former French president Nicolas Sarkozy. Thanks to Jim Ballinger for the report.
 206. Further to reports on Conan Doyle's former home at 12 Tennyson Road in Norwood (Apr 13 #5), previously unsold at auction and then listed at £750,000 by the auctioneer (Barnett Ross), the property is now listed at their web-site as "sold after"; no word as yet as to plans for the house by the new (unidentified) owner. It's possible that the new owner is Revivit Walker, from Bromley, who asked Croydon Council to approve plans to turn the house into a 12-bedroom apartment building.
 207. Two Sherlockian works have won Edgars from the Mystery Writers of America this year: James O'Brien's THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (best critical/ biographical), and Steven Moffat's "Sherlock: A Scandal in Belgravia" (best TV episode teleplay).
 208. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie, has a new URL <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's an excellent list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when (and where); you can contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.
 209. "Great Lives" is a 30-minute series broadcast by BBC Radio 4. On Apr. 30 host Matthew Parris talked with Gyles Brandreth and Andrew Lycett about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and it's nice indeed that the BBC keeps the series up for listening at their web-site <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s4g7j>.
 210. The Telegraph recently blogged about "Ten British TV Shows That Crossed the Pond," and one of them was "Coupling" (described as "the raunchy, semi-auto-biographical sitcom based on the writer Steven Moffat meeting his wife Sue Vertue"). When it was adapted for the American audience in 2003, the series "was deemed to be too sexually explicit" and was cancelled by NBC-TV with just four episodes broadcast. Moffat is better known now as the creator of the BBC-TV series "Sherlock", which is produced by Vertue.
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211. May 13 #3: The seventh episode of "Mr. Selfridge" has now been seen in the U.K. and the U.S., with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (played by John Sessions) coming to the store for a book signing, and he was happy to sign THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES for Agnes Towler; it was a copy of the American edition, the "special limited edition" reprint (stated to be the fourth impression) published by Grosset & Dunlap. And yes, the book says it's the fourth impression. Then he inscribed for Rose Selfridge THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (apparently the British edition) and THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD (apparently the first British edition).
 212. The series was inspired by Lindy Woodhead's biography SHOPPING, SEDUCTION & MR. SELFRIDGE, published in Britain in 2007 and now available as a reprint from Profile Books (£8.99) and Random House (\$16.00). Conan Doyle is mentioned only in passing, as a friend of Sir Oliver Lodge (a fellow-spiritualist who was given his own reserved table in the store's Palm Court Restaurant).
 213. A bit more about the third season of "Sherlock": according to a VH1 report (May 12), Benedict Cumberbatch has said that there's a possibility that the new programs will be broadcast simultaneously in the U.K. and the U.S., so viewers in the U.S. may not have to wait to see the new series.
 214. Jonny Lee Miller's "Elementary" has ended its season on CBS (no discussion here of what happened, since it's still being broadcast in Britain). The series averaged 10.8 million viewers and was the most-watched new series, which certainly pleased the network: work already is underway on the second season, which will open with Holmes and Watson in London. The DVD set for the first season (\$69.99 for the 24 episodes) is now available for pre-order (\$48.99 at Amazon).
 215. And Variety reported (Apr. 30) that CBS Interactive will produce an on-line series "Baker Street Irregulars" based on "Elementary" that's due this fall and follows "a motley crew of characters who assist the modern-day Sherlock in solving cases with their unique talents," to air on <www.cbs.com>, where you can already watch "Elementary" and play a "3 Truths and a Lie" game to "see if you have what it takes to keep up with Sherlock."
 216. Don Hobbs bought the late Fred Levin's collection of foreign translations of the Canon, and is now offering some duplicates for sale. An illustrated sales list is available by e-mail from Don <221b@verizon.net>.
 217. Martin Wallace is developing a computer game based on Neil Gaiman's Holmes/ Lovecraft pastiche "A Study in Emerald" (which won a Hugo award) for Treefrog Games <www.treefroggames.com>; there are links to the company's page at Facebook, and a two-minute video trailer for the game. And if you have wondered what his library looks like, go to <www.tinyurl.com/y8vl5xw>.
 218. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Pittsburgh on May 22, welcomed by members of The Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers, with the toasts including a birthday tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle. Our next dinners will be in Denver on Oct. 30, and in Houston on Apr. 9.
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219. May 13 #4: The American edition of Guy Adams' SHERLOCK: THE CASEBOOK (Feb 13 #2) will be titled THE SHERLOCK FILES: THE OFFICIAL COMPANION TO THE HIT TELEVISION SERIES, due from It Books in July; it's a fully illustrated examination of the first six programs in the series, imaginatively written and with great humor, in the voice of Watson.
 220. "London in 1927" is six minutes of nostalgic color footage uploaded to the Internet by Tim Sparke, and kindly reported by John Linsenmeyer, who notes that that was the year in which the last four Sherlock Holmes stories were published <www.vimeo.com/7638752?>.
 221. The second Can-Am Silver Blaze event will be held on July 13-14 in Toronto. with a buffet luncheon and the race at Woodbine Racetrack, a special story meeting, and a breakfast and tour of Toronto; more information is available from Donny Zaldin (416-565-9555) <donaaldzaldin@rogers.com>.
 222. I'd like to hear from anyone who subscribes to the N.Y. Review of Books and can supply a copy of Michael Dirda's "Not So Elementary, Watson" (May 9); the full text is hidden behind a paywall at the magazine's web-site.
 223. Further to the item on the pair of metal plates displayed by Javier Doria during the birthday festivities in New York (Feb 13 #5), it turns out that there are three plates: one of the pair is reported to have been sold to a collector, and the other two were offered at auction in England this month, estimated at £30,000-£50,000 and £5,000-£10,000; they attracted no bids at all. Jon Lellenberg has written about all three of the plates at his Archival History web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/ajv9k6s>; anyone interested in purchasing the unsold plates can contact Richard Westwood-Brookes at Mullock's at <rchrwdstwdbrks8@googlemail.com>.
 224. Scott Monty notes that Copper Beech Farm is available for purchase. It's not in Hampshire, but rather in Greenwich, Conn., and it's the most expensive property for sale in the U.S. (the asking price is \$190 million). You can read a Wall Street Journal story (May 17) <www.tinyurl.com/ocfgh75> and see a slide show at <www.tinyurl.com/pdt47rn>; 50.5 acres and a 12-bedroom Victorian mansion that needs work. And there are lots of copper beeches.

225. You can add The Netherlands to the list of countries with active Sherlockian societies: The Baarn Baskervilles meet in Baarn, and Jan-Just Middel is their contact. Cornelis Helling founded and presided over The Crew of the S.S. "Friesland", which was active until he died in 1995. Willis Frick's Sherlocktron web-site <www.sherlocktron.com> offers just-updated lists of 901 Sherlockian societies (419 active and 482 inactive) with names and addresses of contacts for the active societies.
226. Willis also has revised his listings of Sherlockian purveyors and Sherlockian publications; new information and corrections can be reported to him at <sherlock1@cox.net>.
227. Dorothy Ramsey is offering an extensive collection of Sherlockian books and memorabilia, asking \$1,500 for the entire collection. Anyone interested is invited to request an e-mail copy of her color-illustrated description; her address is <dorothyramsey@gmail.com>.
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228. May 13 #5: Otto Penzler, proprietor of the Mysterious Bookshop, continues to publish a monthly Mysterious Bookshop Newsletter, always with a "Sherlock Holmes" section offering new, old, and rare books, pamphlets, and magazines, and of course other non-Sherlockian but interesting material; go to <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> and click on "Newsletter" to see the latest issue.
229. "Quote Investigator: Dedicated to Tracing Quotations" is a useful web-site maintained by Garson O'Toole <www.quoteinvestigator.com>; there's nothing by Conan Doyle, but the web-site has imaginative Sherlockian artwork.
230. There's lots of news from the world of the theater: Greg Kramer's new play "Sherlock Holmes" (starring Jay Baruchel as Holmes) opened in Montréal on May 5 (Apr 12 #5) and quickly sold out the entire run (including two additional performances).
231. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" opened at the Alley Theatre in Houston on May 24, and will run through June 23 <www.alleytheatre.org>. Dramatists Play Service (440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016) (212-683-8960) <www.dramatists.com> has published the script (\$8.00); the play premiered in Tucson (Mar 11 #4) and was nominated for an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America.
232. "Magic! Mystery! Romance! Adventure! Fairies! A master detective in a ridiculous hat!" That's the description of a new play "Sherlock Holmes" performed by the Pantaloon Theater Company <www.thepantaloon.co.uk> on tour in England beginning at Burton Constable Hall in Hull on June 9.
233. It's not necessarily the farthest-flung Sherlockian theatrical performance, but the Silent Hands Creative Circle will present Ed Lange's play "Sherlock Holmes' Secret Life" at the Lionel Wendt in Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 14-16 <www.silent-hands.com/creative_circle.php>; the poster artwork shows a fine assortment of Sri Lankan actors in costume for the play. And the play also is scheduled at the Tillamook Theater in Tillamook, Ore., Aug. 30-Sept. 15. <www.tillamooktheater.com>
234. The Theatre at the Mill will present an outdoor version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (in a new dramatization by Laura Turner) in Mossley Hill Civic Square in Newtownabbey (near Belfast) on July 4. Details at <www.theatreatthemill.com>.
235. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the fine parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be presented by Cut to the Chase at the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch, East London, Oct. 16-Nov. 17 <www.queens-theatre.co.uk>.
236. C. P. Stancich's play "Sherlock Holmes and John Watson's Body" premiered in Lafayette, Colo., last year, and will be performed again at the Camino Real Playhouse, Oct. 18 through Nov. 3; 31176 El Camino Real, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 (949-489-8082) <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>.
237. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) will have its world premiere at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Nov. 15-Dec. 15 <www.seattlerep.org>.
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238. May 13 #6: "Hammer Housing Estate of Horror" was the headline on a story from the Daily Mail (Apr. 27), at hand from Roger Johnson: the owner of Bray Studios in Berkshire has announced that the iconic location is no longer viable for movie-making and wants to build up to seven homes on the site. The "Hammer" is Hammer Films, and Bray Studios is where many of their films, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) were made.
239. Department of What Might Have Been: Benedict Cumberbatch, in an interview with Amber M. Ray published in Metro New York (May 6), said that HBO wanted to air "Sherlock" but turned it down because there were only three episodes and "we do series."
240. Litographs <www.litographs.com> demonstrates the wonders of modern technology: literary T-shirts (\$34.00) and posters (\$29.00) offering artistic designs created from the text of books, including THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Kindly reported by Tina Rhea.
241. The spectacular edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET that was published by Hakon Holm in 2005 with the original text from Beeton's Christmas Annual and more than 600 striking illustrations by Danish artist Nis Jessen (Jul 05 #5) has been reissued (with 200 illustrations) as a printed book (€43.95) and in a Kindle edition (€29.99). But the only way to order it appears to be from Amazon in Germany <www.tinyurl.com/pa3fjpv> (there's no cost for shipping for a Kindle edition).
242. There was a Steampunk World's Fair in Piscataway, N.J., May 17-19, according to Steve and Linda Morris, with all sorts of events, including Professor Moriarty's Deadly Dinner (with four seatings) and a Bartitsu Workshop; go to <www.steampunkworldsfair.com> and search for [sherlock] and [doyle] and [moriarty]. Bartitsu (and Sherlock Holmes) also made the front page of the Wall Street Journal (May 24) <www.tinyurl.com/oxnvrwn>.
243. And there was discussion of bartitsu (and baritsu) in "Timeshift: Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting: The Rise of Martial Arts in Britain" (a one-hour television program broadcast by BBC-4 on Feb. 24). Of particular interest was the voice-over statement that the first mention of baritsu in print was in The Times. Thanks to Catherine Cooke for tracking down an article on "Japanese Wrestling at the Tivoli" about an exhibition by instructors at "Mr. Barton-Wright's school of physical culture in Shaftesbury-avenue, where the 'baritsu' system of self-defence is taught," published Aug. 23, 1901 (much earlier than the appearance of "The Empty House" in The Strand Magazine in Oct. 1903).
244. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-5.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, and a report (with a photograph) of an intriguing copy of vol. 42 of The Strand Magazine (Jul-Dec 1911) with a fore-edge painting showing an illustration from "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" and a portrait of Conan Doyle, offered by Buckingham Books for \$3,750; the web-site for the dealer is <www.buckinghambooks.com>.
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245. Jun 13 #1: The Canadian one-hour series "Murdoch Mysteries" is now in its sixth season and is popular in Canada and Britain (but still not available in the U.S.); it's set in Toronto in the 1890s and stars Yannick Bisson as Inspector Murdoch. Geraint Wyn Davies appeared as Arthur Conan Doyle in two episodes in 2008 (Jan 09#1), and he returns in "A Study in Sherlock" (broadcast in Canada on Jan. 28); the program also features Andrew Gower as a man claiming that he is Sherlock Holmes.
246. A new Sherlock Holmes comic's due from Madefire, with an adaptation of "The Greek Interpreter" by Liam Sharp and Bill Sienkiewicz; you can see a sample of their artwork in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/lu3a8h7>; Madefire is a company that creates and markets "motion books" that are downloaded as apps for the iPhone and iPad.
247. Gary Lovisi notes that the 25th Anniversary Annual NYC Collectable Paperback & Pulp Fiction Expo will be held on Oct 13 at the Holiday Inn at 440 West 57th Street in New York. Go to <www.gryphonbooks.com> for details on authors who will attend, and on his Sherlockian and other books.

248. There was a bit of publicity in the British press about a Twitter exchange: "Sherlock" co-creator Mark Gatiss tweeted "Isn't Roger Moore wonderful in The Man Who Haunted Himself? I have such a soft spot for the film." Moore (who played Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes in New York") responded with "@Markgatiss thank you. I might be equally wonderful in Doctor Who or Sherlock if asked." And Gatiss tweeted "My life is complete! Will be in touch. My dad was once mistaken for you by two old ladies in Whitley Bay!" Fans were excited, with one tweeting "You mean Roger Moore playing Sherlock Holmes in a Doctor Who episode? Awesome idea."
249. Colin Dexter's amusing pastiche "A Case of Mis-Identity" (in which he offered an amusing analysis of the Canonical case that Holmes may or may not have solved correctly) was published in WINTER'S CRIMES 21 (1989) and reprinted in MORSE'S GREATEST MYSTERY AND OTHER STORIES (1993). Now Jennifer Reeve's story "A Case of Mis-Identity" has been published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Aug. 2013); it's an imaginative tribute to Dexter, sent to EQMM at his suggestion.
250. "Great Reverence at the Famous" is the title chosen by Scott Monty (who has a talent for finding appropriate Canonical quotes) for his blog about last month's birthdays of three legendary Sherlockian actors; you can read this entry in his Baker Street Blog at <www.tinyurl.com/ls9pu5a>.
251. A comment on the finale of "Elementary" on-line at the Staley Times (May 21) from Jerry Miller, who knows much more about modern technology than I do: "Sherlock Holmes and Watson make a breakthrough in a case by deducing that a series of unrelated iPhone 5 units may be connected because they've been jailbroken in order to run the same homebrew app to communicate with Moriarty. And while it was a small aside in the plot, it marked the first time the word 'jailbreak' has been used on a mainstream TV drama in reference to the iPhone 5 hacking group." If you want to know more about this, you can read the story at <www.tinyurl.com/mb4efs2>.

252. Jun 13 #2: Bev Wolov discovered the Lavolta Press <www.lavoltapress.com>, which publishes books of historical clothing patterns. FASHIONS OF THE GILDED AGE, VOLUME 1 (\$49.00) contains "160 authentic women's patterns for Victorian reenactment and theatrical costuming, suitable for Old West/Wild West; Oregon Trail; British-Zulu Wars; Victorian teas, dances, and weddings; Sherlock Holmes events; and productions of operettas by Gilbert & Sullivan and Johann Strauss II" (\$49.00). And THE VOICE OF FASHION (\$42.00) offers "79 patterns for women's styles from 1900 through 1906, suitable for Edwardian garden parties; teas and weddings; ragtime dances; historic house tours; Sherlock Holmes and steampunk events; and productions of plays by Chekhov and Shaw" (\$42.00). And they have more titles for anyone interested in the Sherlockian era.
253. "Bloody Scotland" is Scotland's international crime-writing festival, and it's scheduled for Sept. 13-15 in Stirling. The program is available online at <www.bloodyscotland.com>; nothing Sherlockian or Doylean (so far).
254. Paul Jones had some predictions about possible plot twists in the next season of "Elementary" in the Radio Times (May 29), one of them that Jonny Lee Miller will swap roles with Benedict Cumberbatch: they've alternated roles before (in the National Theatre's play "Frankenstein"), and "Benedict Cumberbatch's detective will be taking over Miller's New York beat while he in turn joins forces with a very confused John Watson." You can read more of the predictions at <www.tinyurl.com/qbcxstm>.
255. Don Pollock has reported Redbubble <www.redbubble.com>, where you'll find all sort of artwork on T-shirts, iPhone cases, stickers, posters, and much more. A recent search turned up 3,501 hits for [sherlock holmes], 239 hits for [conan doyle], 201 hits for [irene adler], 50 hits for [baskervilles], and 3 hits for [scuttlebutt].
256. Olaf Maurer has reported that the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft has launched a competition, in company with the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen and Haslital Tourism, offering an attractive prize to anyone who can solve all of the clues to the Canonical tales hidden on or associated with John Doubleday's life-sized statue of Sherlock Holmes at Meiringen. There is more information (in German) at <www.sherlock-gesellschaft.de>, and (in English) at <www.sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.ch>. This isn't an easy competition: according to Olaf, the current record holder is Michael Meer, who has solved 54 of the 60 clues.
257. SHINee is a South Korean contemporary R&B boy group, and the lead single on their fourth EP is "Sherlock" (which was an instant success when it was released in 2012). It's at YouTube at <www.tinyurl.com/k8j9fts> along with other videos by the band. Thanks to Aziz Bin Adam and Les Klinger for reporting the song.
258. Jean Stapleton died on May 31. She had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, and television, and was best known for her role at Edith Bunker in the 1970s television series "All in the Family"; she also appeared as busybody investigator Miss Tweed in a production of the murder-mystery musical "Something's Afoot" that was broadcast by Showtime in 1984, singing "I owe it all to Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle."

259. Jun 13 #3: Noreen Malone reported in the New Republic (May 23) that Amazon keeps track of which passages Kindle readers have highlighted the most and #19 on the list is from THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: "I have no data yet. It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts." The most-highlighted book, of course, is THE HOLY BIBLE. You can consult the lists at <www.kindle.amazon.com/most_popular>.
260. Neil Patrick Harris (perhaps best known for four seasons in the title role in the television series "Doogie Howser, M.D.") hosted the Tony Awards in New York this month and won high praise. The photograph shows him with his partner David Burka in costume at the themed mystery wedding of Becky Bailing and Kris Lythgoe on Apr. 27.
261. David Marcum has reported that THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a collection of pastiches, one explaining the family connection between Holmes and Solar Pons (Nov 12 #4) has been reissued by MX Publishing in two volumes at \$16.95 each.
262. Holmes and Watson in a new film (sort of): "Dom Hemingway" will star Jude Law as a safecracker known for his profane and dangerous ways, and Richard E. Grant as his partner Dickie. Jude Law plays Watson in the Warner Bros. "Sherlock Holmes" series, and Grant played Holmes in "Encounters: The Other Side" in 1992 (and Mycroft in "Sherlock" and Stapleton in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 2002). The film is due for release in 2014.
263. Scott Monty has reported that his Sherlock Holmes Social Network, which has been on-line since 2007, will be shutting down as of July 15 because of the increasing amount of spam and fake accounts <www.sherlockholmes.ning.com>. But there's an alternative: his Sherlock Holmes Community at Google+; all that's required is a Google account <www.bit.ly/SHCommunity>.
264. Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, blogs from time to time, and more than occasionally on matters Sherlockian or Doyleans. He has perpetrated a Sherlockian pastiche for the "Three-Minute Fiction" competition was announced on "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio, and while he didn't win, you can his blog about the pastiche at <www.tinyurl.com/lp9nmq2>. He also has blogged with pleasure about a Doylean competition he did win <www.tinyurl.com/kqkxxwu>; it would appear he was the only competitor, but it's a grand story.
265. "Baker Street Irregulars: Hanging on for Dear Life" is a CD issued by Atomic Mouse Recordings in 2006 and available at <www.amazon.com> (\$11.53); you can also purchase individual tracks on-line. The Baker Street Irregulars is described on Myspace as the "nom de guerre" of Brian McKnight's one-

man; none of the tracks are Sherlockian but he explains the Sherlock Holmes has always been one of his heroes, and he was mesmerized when at the age of 12 he saw the HBO broadcast of Frank Langella in the Gillette play.

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266. Jun 13 #4: The "Algonquin Round Table Mysteries" (a series of novels from J. J. Murphy) are set in the Algonquin Hotel in New York during the 1920s and feature Dorothy Parker, her fellow members of the Round Table, and others including William Faulkner in MURDER YOUR DARLINGS; Harry Houdini in YOU MIGHT AS WELL DIE; and Arthur Conan Doyle in A FRIENDLY GAME OF MURDER (New York: Penguin/Obsidian, 2013; 316 pp., \$6.99); Murphy takes some liberties (but has fun) with the Algonquin as well as with its famous (and infamous) inhabitants <www.roundtablemysteries.com>.
267. Sonia Fetherson notes that Matt Laffey has reported that The Spectator has created an archive of issues from 1828 to 2008, searchable on-line without charge. The Spectator published many items of interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans; it's intriguing that a search for [sherlock holmes] produces 221 hits.
268. Admirers of "Sherlock" and admirers of "Elementary" argue (sometimes strenuously) about the merits of one series or the other; occasionally the argument is amusing, as with a post by Jack Moore to BuzzFeed last year. Obviously, CBS was not persuaded.
269. Andrew Lane, who turned his attention to the great grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger in LOST WORLD (Apr 13 #6), launched his earlier YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series with DEATH CLOUD (Jun 10 #3); there are five titles in the series, the latest being FIRE STORM (London: Macmillan, 2011; 344 pp., £12.99/\$17.99) and SNAKE BITE (London: Macmillan, 2012; 312 pp., same). Lane has said that he plans to continue the series, and there is an interesting web-site at <www.youngsherlock.com>.
270. The Sherlock Holmes Society of India (Mar 05 #5) now has an on-line journal Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge, with 60 pages and nicely done. There's a link at the society's homepage <www.sherlockholmessociety.in>.
271. "The Adventure of the Mysterious Safe" is the title of an imaginative project devised by Shannon Carlisle, an accelerated-learning elementary-school teacher in Nashville; she was this year's winning of The Beacon Society's Beacon Award, and you can read all about the project in a special edition of Joel and Carolyn Senter's Sherlockian E-Times <www.tinyurl.com/mv374q3>.
272. There's a north-of-the-border equivalent of the BBC America cable channel: BBC Canada (which is showing the CBS-TV series "Elementary"), and of course there's a BBC Canada Shop offering (among other things) a Sherlock Holmes Coaster Set (#16903) decorated with Sherlockian silhouettes, discounted to \$19.99 <www.tinyurl.com/k52886f>; kindly reported by Jack Winn.
273. Shane Peacock's BECOMING HOLMES ends his series about Sherlock Holmes as a young man, and it has been nominated for an Arthur Ellis Award (best juvenile/ young adult) from the Crime Writers of Canada; the awards are imaginatively named after the "nom de travail" of Canada's official hangman. The author has a web-site at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.
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274. Jun 13 #5: The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; the summer issue has Evy Herzog's imaginative "Toast to Spring Cleaning" and Brad Keefauver's enthusiastic report on 221BCon in Atlanta; next year's convention will be held Apr. 4 to 6 <www.221bcon.com>. The Muse is Published quarterly, and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
275. "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (a podcast created by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder) now has 53 episodes, the latest of them being a 61-minute program featuring an interview with Tom Francis, who chairs the Baker Street Irregulars Trust, which collects and archives primary material about the history of the BSI and its members. You can listen to or download the podcast at <www.ihearofsherlock.com>; earlier episodes also are available.
276. Gary Thaden has discovered just the thing for Sherlockian bathrooms: "No Shit Sherlock Lavatory Mist" sold by Blue Q (\$11.99), with a light lemon and cedar scent and suitable "for crime scenes of all types and sizes"; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/om9p8jl>.
277. Thomas Wheeler, the author of THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Nov 11 #8), has used Google Maps Engine to create an imaginative map of the London area with icons for some of the sites in his book; you can zoom in and out using the icons at the lower right, and navigate with your mouse. Ask him <londonsecrets@london.com> to share it with you.
278. Viator ("travel with an insider") offers various guided tours, including a "Sherlock Holmes Film Location Tour in London": the two-hour walking tour, which is led by a film-expert guide, visits film sites from "Murder by Decree" to "Sherlock" (\$15.36) <www.tinyurl.com/mt385ch>.
279. AIDE-DE-CAMP TO CONAN DOYLE: THE BOER WAR DIARY OF CHARLES BLASSON, by Ken Cooper (London: Createspace, 2013; 64 pp., £6.99), is the diary of a young medical student who served as one of the dressers in the privately-funded Langman Field Hospital during the Boer War in South Africa, where he served under Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle and was for a time his secretary. Ken Cooper found the diary in his wife's family papers, and his annotated transcription offers a fascinating account of what the war was like for the British who fought in it, and a look at Conan Doyle himself.
280. MX Publishing has now sponsored four Great Sherlock Holmes Debates on the Internet since the first one was held on Nov. 10, 2011 (the latest was held on June 8 this year). Colorful slides from all four debates are available at <www.slideshare.net>, and recordings of the second and third can be seen at <www.youtube.com>; just search for [great sherlock holmes debate].
281. Scott Monty reports that his Sherlock Holmes Social Network will shut down in July, because of the growing number of spammers and the cost of keeping the site running; if you have content at the site you'd like to keep, you need to download it now, because the site will be deleted. But there's a substitute: the Sherlock Holmes Community <www.bit.ly/SHCommunity>.
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282. Jun 13 #6: With regard to Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (Feb 13 #6), asking a federal court to rule that the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson are not protected by federal copyright laws, and that writers, filmmakers, and others can use the characters in new stories without paying any license fees to the owners of the remaining copyright on the stories, Les has posted a brief update at his web-site at <www.free-sherlock.com>: "The Arthur Conan Doyle Estate has failed to file a formal appearance or any other responsive pleading in the matter within the time granted to it. We are considering our next actions in the case and will keep you posted."
283. Scott Monty has a "Holmes on Facebook" link at the top of the opening page of his Baker Street Blog, where you can find a list (with links) and a form you can use to report additions <www.bakerstreetblog.com>. There seems to be no end to Sherlockian social networking.
284. The First Annual John H. Watson Society Treasure Hunt will be launched at noon on Aug. 1; details at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lhrk8ob> (you don't need to be a member to participate).
285. The Book Depository offers lists of Top Heroes and Top Villains (as voted by customers) <www.tinyurl.com/lq7payx>, and of course Holmes and Moriarty are near the top of their lists; what's really interesting is whether you can identify all of the heroes and villains.
286. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-6.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, and reports from society's near and far.

287. The Bay Area Sherlock Con, now in its second year, will be held on Aug. 17 at Santa Clara University in California <www.bayareasherlockcon.com>; it's a "fan-run celebration of Sherlock Holmes" and there's additional information at their Tumblr site <www.bayareasherlockcon.tumblr.com>.
 288. Further to the report (May 13 #6) on the British television program "Timeshift: Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting: The Rise of Martial Arts in Britain" that included discussion of bartitsu and baritsu, Aziz Bin Adam notes that it's available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=St0-JDpJAIQ>.
 289. The new CD "Twisted Tales" (Chops not Chaps, \$15.00) is a collaboration between the late rock keyboardist Ray Manzarek and blues slide guitarist Roy Rogers, and the lead track is a new song "Just Like Sherlock Holmes" (which you can sample or purchase as a download at <www.amazon.com>).
 290. Ladbrokes opened a betting market on who will be the next Doctor Who (Matt Smith, the current Doctor, leaves the series at the end of this year), and the early front-runner (at 3/1) was Rory Kinnear (Bill Tanner, M's Chief of Staff, in the current "James Bond" films). But not far behind (at 6/1) was Benedict Cumberbatch (who of course is well known to Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss (co-creators of both "Doctor Who" and "Sherlock"). When the odds on Kinnear dropped to 2/1, Ladbrokes suspended betting. Rory Kinnear's father was the late Roy Kinnear, who played Moriarty's assistant in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
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291. Jun 13 #7: "MAD" is a 15-minute animated series that airs on the Cartoon Network, and offers parodies similar to those in its namesake magazine, and on June 17 the program included an amusing 3-minute spoof of the CBS series "Elementary" (with Mary Poppins helping Watson and Gregson investigate the mysterious disappearance of Sherlock Holmes. You might be able to see the segment at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/msq9xkn>, if it's still there (if not, you can search for "Umbrellamentary").
 292. More theater news: Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" opened at the Park Square Theater in St. Paul, Minn., on June 7 and will close on July 14 <www.parksquaretheater.org>; there's a 2-minute video trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/mf30lkn>.
 293. Laura Turner's new outdoor version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (May 13 #5), first performed by the Chapterhouse Theatre at Wentworth Castle Gardens in Barnesley, is now touring in Great Britain and Ireland. The full schedule's at <www.chapterhouse.org>.
 294. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Hackmatack Playhouse in Berwick, Maine, through July 6 <www.hackmatack.org>. And at the Lakeview Arts Barn in Bobcaygeon, Ont., through July 6 <www.lakeviewartsbarn.com>. And it's being performed at the Seaside Repertory Theatre in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla., through Aug. 3 <www.seasidereptheatre.wordpress.com>. For those who want to plan far in advance, it has been scheduled by Theatre Works at the Mountainview Center for the Performing Arts in Palo Alto, Calif., on Apr. 2-27 <www.theatreworks.org>.
 295. "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (Steven Dietz's play) is being performed at the Pierson Playhouse in Pacific Palisades, Calif., through July 14 <www.theatrepalisades.org>. And at the Commonwealth Theatre in Lanesboro, Minn., through Oct. 28 <www.commonwealththeatre.org>.
 296. Don't Go Into the Cellar <www.dontgointothecellar.com> is a Victorian theater company performing in Britain; click on "What's On" to find dates and venues for their tours of "The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes" (from July 11), "Holmes Alone" (from Oct. 12), and "Ho Ho Holmes" (from Nov. 23).
 297. Radio Spirits continues to offer a wide variety of old-time radio programs on CDs, some Sherlockian but most non-Sherlockian, and the company's catalogue and web-site are well worth inspection (3107 Wallingford, CT 06494) (800-833-4248) <www.radiospirits.com>. They also have a blog, and an archive of their own radio broadcasts.
 298. Go to YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/nso9d4r> to hear 35 minutes of a longer recording of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" issued on a CD by Verglas Music (Feb 02 #6); words and music are by Clive Nolan and Oliver Wakeman, and the narrator is Robert Powell, who also plays Dr. Watson (Powell was Sherlock Holmes in the BBC radio broadcast of "A Study in Scarlet" in 1974, and on stage in a touring production of "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" in 1993).

Jul 13 #1:

299. THE LIGHTER SIDE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: MX Publishing, 2013, 289 pp., £18.99/€22.99/\$29.95) offers an extensive look at the Sherlockian artwork of Norman Schatell; compiled by his son Glenn, the book is a splendid tribute to a truly imaginative artist whose artwork appeared in many Sherlockian publications and on envelopes of the letters he sent to his correspondents. You'll see for yourself why his friends waited impatiently for his letters, and miss receiving them now. There's also a trade paperback edition. "Let me recommend this book," as Sherlock Holmes once said.
 300. EAST WIND COMING, by Yuichi Hirayama and John Hall (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 233 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95), is a welcome collection of their articles and essays first published in the Shoso-in Bulletin, the Baker Street Journal, and other Sherlockian periodicals, many of them offering interesting Japanese insights into the Canon.
 301. Article IV of the Constitution of The Baker Street Irregulars states that the "duties of the Commissionaire shall be to telephone down for ice, White rock, and whatever else might be required and available." White Rock still is available for purchase, although Psyche (the company's symbol of purity since 1894) is rather more decorous now than she was when Elmer Davis wrote the Constitution. You can see a slide show at <www.whiterockbeverages.com> and (explore the section for Collectors) see video of Ernie Kovacs' brief encounter with Psyche.
 302. CBS Consumer Products has announced that they have licensed Titan Publishing Group to create a series of original novels, that will be released in 2014. The novels will be new stories, tie-ins to the CBS television series "Elementary"
 303. Wilfrid de Freitas has noted an interesting article in the London Evening Standard (June 6) <www.tinyurl.com/o6v6f5p> about Simon Wright, who was arrested for violating an Asbo [anti-social behaviour order] that banned him from begging in London. He has been earning £50,000 a year as a beggar and lives in a £300,000 flat in Fulham, happily following the example that was set by Neville St. Clair.
 304. If you're considering a trip to India in August, the Sherlock Holmes Society of India is holding its annual meeting in Mumbai on Aug. 24-25; details at their web-site <www.sherlockholmessociety.in>.
 305. The second annual Sherlock Seattle Convention will be held at the Broadway Performance Hall on Oct. 4-6; the guests of honor will be Laurie R. King, Les Klinger, and Lee Eric Shackleford, and there will be panels, cosplay, and other entertainment <www.sherlock-seattle.org>.
 306. Alan Barnes' "Sherlock Holmes Suite" for jazz octet and narrator was first performed at the Appleby Festival in Cumbria in July 2002 and then issued as a two-CD set from Woodville Records (WVCD102); the CD set's still available at <www.amazon.co.uk>, and the tracks as downloads from Amazon in the U.K. and the U.S.. Barnes has a talent for swing, and pays tribute to Duke Ellington; you can listen to the music free at <www.tinyurl.com/o8ntrt4>.
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307. Jul 13 #2: "A Curious Night at the Theatre" was a one-night fund-raising gala in aid of two charities (the National Autistic Society and Ambitious about Autism) at the Apollo Theatre in London on July 1, and the evening included an imaginative live-and-video sequel to the National Theatre production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" (dramatized from the novel by Mark Haddon). Luke Treadaway again played Christopher Boone, whose regular game of Tetris was invaded by Doctor Who (Matt Smith), who sent Christopher on a mission to combat the evil Moriarty

- (Andrew Scott); needing help, Christopher turned to the Queen (Helen Mirren), who granted access to the computer wizardry of Q (Ben Whishaw). And if the names of the supporting actors are familiar, it's because they have played the same roles on screen and television; Jude Law also was in the play, not as Watson but rather as Christopher's supply teacher.
308. *THE SAGE OF SANTA FE: THE ADVENTURES AND PUBLIC LIFE OF JOHN BENNETT SHAW*, by Susan Rice and Vinnie Brosnan (Oceanside: Sherlock in L.A. Press, 2013), is a delightful and nicely illustrated 28-page tribute to a man who was admired by more than one generation of Sherlockians, and justly so; available for \$7.00 postpaid from Vinnie (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056).
309. The Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club (Apr 13 #1) now has two web-sites, one of them in Hungarian <www.sherlock-sorozat.hu>, and the other one in English <www.sherlockian-sherlock.com>.
310. The Museum of London has scheduled a major exhibition on Sherlock Holmes to open next autumn. According to a story in *The Times* (June 26), "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's first scribbled notes about Sherlock Holmes" may be among the exhibits; Alex Werner, head of history collections at the museum, said that he hopes to obtain permission to show the author's manuscript notebooks in which the detective first appeared, as well as manuscripts for some of the stories.
311. Thomas Wheeler's imaginative interactive map of the London area (Jun 13 #5) is now available at Google Maps Engine <www.tinyurl.com/n2dweuu>; you can zoom in and out using the icons at the lower right, and navigate with your mouse to see information from his *THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*.
312. Basil Rathbone continues to be popular, and is well represented on the Internet: "The Great Baz" <www.thegreatbaz.wordpress.com> is delightful blog maintained by Neve Rendell.
313. Allen J. Hubin likely has read more crime fiction than anyone else, alive or dead: his *CRIME FICTION IV: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1749-2000* has been updated to 2010 and includes 143,200 books, 79,200 stories, and 5,100 movies, and it's a treasure for anyone interested in the genre. He began publishing his bibliography in "The Armchair Detective" (which he launched as a fanzine in 1967) and told the story of his work in a splendid article on "My Life Crime Fiction" in Janet Rudolph's magazine *Mystery Scene*. You can read the article at the magazine's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ly8x5xd>. The bibliography is available in a CD edition (\$49.95) from Locus Magazine <www.locusmag.com>. The current (summer) issue of *Mystery Scene* includes Joseph Goodrich's "Nicholas Meyer: An Appreciation" and Carole Nelson Douglas' "Why Can't They Get Irene Adler Right?" (not available on-line).
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314. Jul 13 #3: Catherine Cooke reports that Abbey House, for years the headquarters of the Abbey National Bank, now is the Park View Residence, and it's quite grand <www.parkviewresidence.co.uk>. Its flats are available for rental from Knight Frank <www.tinyurl.com/mjhuolb> at £5,416 to £6,608 per month. Abbey House was the site of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition during the Festival of Britain in 1951.
315. Donna Andrews has a continuing series about Meg Langslow (a successful decorative blacksmith and amateur sleuth), all with nicely punned titles (including *COCKATIELS AT SEVEN*, *SOME LIKE IT HAWK*, and *OWLS WELL THAT ENDS WELL*). the 15th title in the series is *THE HEN OF THE BASKERVILLES* (New York: Minotaur, 2013; 308 pp., \$24.99), in which livestock is stolen from a country fair (the owners aren't really named Baskerville, but many people do think so). There's a murder, and other mysteries, and a Sherlockian allusion or two in the book, which has amusing cover art. The author's at <www.donnaandrews.com>.
316. Martin Freeman and Benedict Cumberbatch weren't in San Diego to attend Comic-Con, but they sent an amusing 4-minute video in which Cumberbatch revealed how he survived the fall from the roof of Bart's at the end of the second season; it may still be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/p3wehot>. You can also watch Digital Spy's 4-minute video interview with Steven Moffat, Sue Vertue, and Mark Gatiss at <www.tinyurl.com/mfaq6p8>. They were on a panel together, and according to the *Los Angeles Times* (July 18), they confirmed that there will be a wedding coming up: "Hot off the presses from 110 years ago, John does get married," Moffat said, "We hoped that you wouldn't sneak ahead and read the books." They also explained why Andrew Scott was seen on the set during filming of "The Empty Hearse": Moriarty's in the episode, as a corpse (Gatiss said that "it was cheaper to get Andrew Scott than a mannequin").
317. Andrew Malec has recommended Stephen J. Gertz's blog *Booktryst* (subtitled "a nest for book lovers") <www.booktryst.com>; the postings are only occasionally Sherlockian or Doylean, but they're interesting nonetheless.
318. "Desert Island Discs" has been broadcast by the BBC since 1942: each week distinguished guests are asked to choose eight pieces of music they'd take if they were castaways on a desert island. They also get to choose a book, which occasions Sherlockian allusions by some castaways, who include violinist Itzhak Perlman, the Right Reverend David Jenkins (Bishop of Durham and the guest of honor at the annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London), Mark Gatiss, and most recently Beryl Vertue (founder and chairman of Hartswood Films, the company that produces "Sherlock" for the BBC). It is especially nice that there is an on-line archive of more than 1,500 programs at <www.tinyurl.com/6cs8hsp>. Search for [conan doyle] you'll get nine hits.
319. One of Beryl Vertue's music choices was David Arnold's "SHERlocked" played by the London Session Orchestra; the piece was written for the second season of "Sherlock" and is available on a soundtrack CD and as an MP3 download from on-line booksellers.
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320. Jul 13 #4: Andrea Ross has reported an intriguing project carried out by Ariane DeVere (aka Callie Sullivan), who has posted transcripts for all episodes of the BBC "Sherlock" television series at her Live Journal web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oul7sek>. The pilot for the series and the special features from the DVD are included in the transcripts, which will be quite helpful for those who aren't quite sure just what people are saying in the series.
321. Reggie Musgrave died on June 24. An enthusiastic member of both The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and The Poor Folk Upon the Moor, he was formerly Roger Matthews. Not liking his original name he changed it to that of the character he often impersonated when the Society held its costumed excursions. As far as I know, he's the only person to be that devoted to the Canon).
322. Jody Baker's the contact for The Friends of a Soldier Named Murray, a Sherlockian society at an assisted-living facility in Chattanooga, Tenn., and he's happy to offer support and assistance to anyone who planning to start such a society elsewhere. He's at <josiahbaker@bkhcw.com>.
323. Simon Corble's two-act play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was first performed in an outdoor venue in Britain in 1995, and the script's now available (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 109 pp., £7.99/£8.99/\$10.95); Corble's introduction explains how the play came to be written, and why it differs from the book. It can be interesting indeed to read scripts when you have already read the story.
324. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND PHILOSOPHY: THE FOOTPRINTS OF A GIGANTIC MIND*, edited by Josef Steiff (Chicago: Open Court, 2011; 376 pp., \$19.95), is part of a long series on Popular Culture and Philosophy that presents essays written by academic philosophers about icons of popular culture. Holmes certainly is one of those icons, and the essays explore the stories, pastiches, film, and television.

325. David Miller's *PETER CUSHING: A LIFE IN FILM* (London: Titan, 2013; 192 pp., £18.99/\$24.95) is both a biography and a filmography, and it's entertaining and informative, with (of course) discussion of his appearances as Sherlock Holmes and as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. There's an interesting photograph in the book (page 77) that shows Peter Cushing on the set of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1958 with Stanley Mackenzie (identified only as a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society) and Humphrey Morton (who acted with Cushing in a touring company in "Private Lives" in 1942). Stanley Mackenzie was an enthusiastic collector and stage manager for the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1973, and Morton was the founder and chairman of The Milvertonians of Hampstead.
326. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND FRANKENSTEIN'S DIARY* (Sutton: Severn House, 2013; 183 pp., \$28.95) is the fourth in Barry Grant's series; Sherlock Holmes, frozen in a Swiss glacier for 90 years, has been revived and is again detecting in London, assisted by James Wilson, a correspondent invalided home after an assignment in Afghanistan. This time they're in pursuit of (and under attack from) tabloid king Gerald Gurloch, who seems to be corrupting, blackmailing, or hacking everyone in sight.

327. Jul 13 #5: Jennie Paton has discovered a new (well, new to me) Sherlockian genre: a video of Rebecca van Tassel performing her strip-tease "Elementary My Dear Watson" at India Starr's Cabaret Nouveau in Leicester; the finale is properly (or improperly) S'ian, and there's a 4-minute video is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/kwef8l2>.
328. Jennie has found something else new: a surviving print of the one-reel silent film "Burstup Homes' Murder Case" (1913), starring Fraunie Fraunholz in the title role <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDbl6rCGnB8>; you get to watch the first 6 minutes twice, but then the film's complete.
329. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-7.html>, offering Sherlockian news, and old and new Sherlockiana.
330. There was a lot of discussion on the Internet about the title of the third episode of the third season of "Sherlock": the title of the first episode is "The Empty Hearse" and the second episode will be "The Sign of Three"; Steven Moffat gave fans a clue for the third episode earlier ("Bow"), and the BBC announced there would be clues planted in reruns of the second season in the U.K. And so there were: the clue in the first episode was the word "HIS"), leading to conclusions about "His Last Bow". A delay in the repeat broadcast of the third episode led the producers to reveal the full title in the second episode: it's "His Last Vow".
331. Marc Simont died on July 13. He was a noted author, but was best known as an illustrator of children's books; his artwork appeared in nearly a hundred books, and he was a winner of the Caldecott Award and the illustrator of the first 20 titles in Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's "Nate the Great" series about a boy who enthusiastically follows in Sherlock Holmes' footsteps.
332. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE NEEDLE'S EYE*, by Len Bailey (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2013; 302 pp., \$15.99), is subtitled "The World's Greatest Detective Tackled the Bible's Ultimate Mysteries"; Holmes, Watson, and (for one mystery) Mrs. Hudson time-travel to Biblical times to offer the author's own textual criticism and disputation.
333. There's nothing Sherlockian about Laurie R. King's *TOUCHSTONE* (2008), and it's unlikely that there will be anything S'ian about its upcoming sequel *THE BONES OF PARIS*, but her publicity campaign for the new book includes a thoroughly imaginative and amusing 6-minute video; you can read about the book (and watch the video) at <www.tinyurl.com/ln3eq7z>.
334. Some of you are accustomed to seeing announcements of meetings of The Red Circle of Washington as part of the newsletter, but (edging into the 21st century) we now have an electronic mailing list, which you are welcome to join; requests to me, please, at <blau7103@comcast.net>.
335. Since it's summer, there's lots of theater coming up, here and there. The East Haddam Stage Company is presenting "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" (a 30-minute live-action radio drama using the script from William Gillette's 1930 broadcast) at Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., through Aug. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/m43smbm>.

336. Jul 13 #6: Chris Hibbs' play "The Curious Case in the Colony: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" is being performed in the Newman Wine Vaults, Provincial Historic Site, in St. John's, Newfoundland, through Aug. 18 as part of the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival <www.tinyurl.com/k5qghuu>.
337. "Sherlock Holmes and the Charleston History Mystery" is an audience-participation parody being performed at the Black Fedora Comedy Mystery Theatre in Charleston, S.C., through Aug. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/mdoasno>.
338. Two scenes from Greg Oliver Bodine's "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" were performed during the William Gillette Luncheon during the birthday festivities, and the complete play was presented at a sold-out staged reading last March; there will be three readings of the latest version of the play, with Paul Singleton starring as Holmes, at the Workshop Theater Company in New York on Aug. 8-10 <www.requiemforsherlockholmes.com>, and reservations are recommended <www.theaterworkshop.org/node/2358> although there's no charge to attend the show.
339. The Porters of Hellgate will present Gus Krieger's new two-act play "Sherlock Through the Looking-Glass" (based on the works of Arthur Conan Doyle and Lewis Carroll) at the Whitmore Theatre in North Hollywood, from Aug. 16 to Sept. 22 <www.whitmoreindleytheatrecenter.com>; if you don't find the play at the web-site, the theater's phone number is 818-679-6160).
340. Broken Holmes Productions will offer Robin Johnson's comedy "Broken Holmes" during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the Space on the Mile on Aug. 19-24 <www.brokenholmes.co.uk>.
341. Ed Lange's play "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be performed at the Barn Community Playhouse <www.tillamooktheater.com> in Tillamook, Ore., from Aug. 30 through Sept. 15.
342. "Sherlock Holmes--Knight's Gambit" (a new play by Paul Falzone) is scheduled at the Cider Mill Playhouse in Endicott, N.Y., Sept. 19 through Oct. 13 <www.ciderhillplayhouse.org>. And by the Oldcastle Theatre Company in Bennington, Vt., Sept. 27-Oct. 13 <www.oldcastletheatre.org>. And at the Bickford Theatre at the Morris Museum in Morristown, N.J., Oct. 24-Nov. 10 <www.morrismuseum.org>.
343. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled by the Spotlight Players Theatre Troupe at the Meridian Habitat Community Center in Puyallup, Wash., Sept. 28-Oct. 5 <www.valleyartsunited.org/Spotlight_Players.html>.
344. Chris Bange's "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Hansom Cab Killer" will be performed at The Gladstone in Ottawa on Oct. 15-26 <www.thegladstone.ca>.
345. And you can plan farther ahead: two Sherlockian plays will be presented by Vertigo Theatre in Calgary next year: Chris Gibbs' "Antoine Feval" on Jan. 15-25, and Clive Francis' dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from May 10 to June 8 <www.vertigotheatre.com>.

346. Aug 13 #1: Catherine Cooke reports that the Sherlock Holmes Collection has moved from the Marylebone Library to the Westminster Reference Library, and that its new postal address is "Sherlock Holmes Collection (Third Floor), Westminster Reference Library, 35 St. Martin's Street, London WC2H 7HP, England. She has also posted to the "Irregular Observations" blog an amusing account (nicely illustrated) of "The Case of the Leicester Square Furniture Van" at <www.wcclibraries.wordpress.com/category/irregular-observations>.

347. Spotted by Marsha Pollak: PRACTICAL CLASSICS: 50 REASONS TO REREAD 50 BOOKS YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED SINCE HIGH SCHOOL, by Kevin Smokler (Amherst: Prometheus Books, 2013; 300 pp., \$18.00); with a 7-page chapter on "The Work/Life Balance of Sherlock Holmes".
 348. "A Triceratops Skull, a Giant Robot, and a Fantastic Flying Machine: Christie's Displays Lots for Out of the Ordinary Sale" read the headline on the Independent's story (Aug. 5) on an auction scheduled in London on Sept. 5. The "fantastic flying machine" is the Waxflatter Ornithopter used in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985); it's estimated at £50,000 to £80,000.
 349. Judith Freeman has prepared a useful guide to "How to Start and Run a Sherlockian Group"; available on request <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>.
 350. The Daily Telegraph ran a colorful photograph of a lion's mane jellyfish in a story (July 30) on hundreds of thousands of jellyfish having descended on Britain; the Marine Conservation Society conducts an annual national jellyfish survey, and is asking people to report jellyfish sighting. People are warned, however, that the lion's mane has a powerful sting, and anyone taking part in the survey should look but not touch jellyfish that they see.
 351. The Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club has discovered an on-line "how to draw" web-site at <www.drawingnow.com> that offers a helpful tutorial on "how to draw Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/mvqcpcmu>.
 352. Gayle Lange Puhl's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FOLK TALE MYSTERIES, published by George Vanderburgh in 2012, is a 192-page collection of imaginative pastiches inspired by children's folk tales and nursery rhymes (plus a Wodehouse pastiche), and with cover and interior art by Gayle. \$25.00 postpaid (signed or inscribed on request), available from Gayle at 501 South Madison Street #12, Evansville, WI 53536.
 353. Frogwares has released a 2-minute trailer for its new computer game "Crimes & Punishments" (the next title in its series of Sherlockian computer games) <www.tinyurl.com/mr258kk>; I have never played any of these games, but the graphics continue to improve, and are now truly spectacular.
 354. Peter G. Ashman ("Peter Steiler, the Elder") died on Aug. 5. He was a lawyer in the Washington area, and a member of The Red Circle, and then a District Court Judge in Alaska, serving rural communities and especially Alaskan Natives. Peter founded The Pawky Humorists in 1974, but unfortunately never was able to complete his projected magnum opus "The Annotated Schlock Homes"; his Investiture was awarded by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.
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355. Aug 13 #2: Douglas G. Greene has presided over Crippen & Landru for many years, and his recently-updated web-site is well worth a look <www.crippenlandru.com>. He specializes in publishing collections of mystery short stories, often previously uncollected and sometimes previously unpublished, and he offers a treasure trove for those who enjoy the genre. He will soon issue the first edition in English of Balduin Grollers' DAGOBERT, SLEUTH OF OLD VIENNA (1910); Dagobert Trostler was one of "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" in the fine 1970s television series that was based on anthologies edited by Hugh Greene.
 356. Les Klinger spotted an advertising campaign by Steimatsky (Israel's largest bookstore chain) with the slogan "The Right Book Will Always Keep You Company" (and needless to say, one of the right books is the Sherlock Holmes stories).
 357. Harry Houdini's A MAGICIAN AMONG THE SPIRITS (1924) included discussion of his relationship with Conan Doyle; Houdini was not satisfied with the book, cut by the publisher to 75,000 words from the nearly 175,000 words that Houdini wrote, and he soon began work on a revised edition that was unfinished when he died in 1926. The 409-page typed manuscript, hand-corrected and signed, was previously owned by magician Milbourne Christopher, and offered at RR Auctions on July 17, estimated at \$40,000-\$50,000, but it went unsold. The manuscript was published in facsimile, edited and introduced by his widow Maurine, in 1996.
 358. The spring issue of For the Sake of the Trust (The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) celebrates the tenth anniversary of the Trust, with looks back and forward, and an announcement that the newsletter will be available electronically, both at the web-site <www.bsistrust.org> and by e-mail. If you would like to be added to the e-mailing list, you can send a request to <trust221b@gmail.com>.
 359. "Evaline and Mina didn't mean to get into the family business" is the hook for Colleen Gleason's THE CLOCKWORK SCARAB (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2013; 350 pp., \$17.99), and it's an imaginative proposition: Evaline Holmes is the niece of Sherlock, and Mina Stoker is the sister of Bram, and their adventures are set in a steampunk Victorian London. The book is a youngadult novel aimed at teen-age girls, with romance, villainy, plenty of reasons for a sequel, and a web-site <www.stokerandholmes.com>.
 360. "Click to Play: Web Adaptations of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of a recent essay by Kristina Manente at the Baker Street Babes blog. It's easy enough to see (and sometimes difficult to escape) various television series, but there's an entirely different genre available on the Internet: web series. Kristina's blog <www.tinyurl.com/kpkz3e4> has interesting comment on and links to three current series.
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361. Aug 13 #3: The latest issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist notes a BBC report that Ian Brady, convicted Moors Murderer, has told a mental health tribunal that he used "method acting" to be classed insane. Speaking of the media, Brady asked, "Why are they still talking about Jack the Ripper after a century?" His answer was "Because of the dramatic background, the fog, cobbled streets. Mine's the same ... Wuthering Heights, Hound of the Baskervilles." Brady, convicted in 1966, wants to be transferred from a psychiatric hospital to a Scottish prison. For information on how to subscribe to Ripperologist, you can contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.
 362. Reported by Al Gregory: ESTUDIO EN ESCARLATA, a commemorative translation of the story as it appeared in Beeton's Christmas Annual, published last year by Debolsillo in Barcelona (€95) <www.tinyurl.com/bs7gwlk>.
 363. A bibliographic query received from Nick Utechin: Helan Halbach published a new edition of William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974, using the original plates for the 1935 edition; according to the 1974 edition's limitation statement, there were 1,000 copies, 250 of them numbered, and some of the copies are thought to have been sold accompanied by an original plate used to produce the new edition. Nick has the plate for page 85 (acquired separately from the book), and a dealer in California is offering a copy of the book with the plate for page 182; plates certainly were made available, although not necessarily with copies of her edition. Nick would like to hear from anyone who has an original plate, and about how the plate was acquired <highfieldfarmhouse@yahoo.co.uk>.
 364. William and Helen Gillette (impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver) traveled on the Essex Steam Railway & Riverboat on Aug. 17 and 18, and you can watch a short promotional video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JoawaS3R>.
 365. Jonathan Cranfield and Tom Ue, who presided over an academic conference on "Sherlock Holmes, Past and Present" in London earlier this year, have issued a call for papers for a similar symposium titled "Challenger Unbound" in London on Dec. 9; the symposium will be "dedicated to re-evaluating the narratives, their author, the wider culture that he inhabited, and the legacy of his work for the twentieth and twenty-first centuries." Details are available from <j.l.cranfield@ljmu.ac.uk> and <ue_tom@hotmail.com>.
 366. You still have time to register for Bouchercon 2013 ("A New York State of Mind") in Albany, Sept. 19-22 <www.bcon2013.com>; this is the 44th annual event, named in honor of the late Anthony Boucher, and always a lot of fun. There will be a panel on "And So It Goes: Beyond Doyle and Holmes" (panelists are Terence Faherty, Lyndsay Faye, Les Klinger, and Michael Robertson, moderated by yours truly.

367. Thomas Wheeler's imaginative interactive map of the London area (Jun 13 #5) now includes information from Bernard Davies' guidebooks; the map is available at Google Maps Engine <www.tinyurl.com/n2dweuu>, where you can zoom in and out using the icons at the lower right, and navigate with your mouse to see information from Wheeler's THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

368. Aug 13 #4: Bill Barnes has reported on a new discovery about Conan Doyle's visit to Australia in 1920: his visit to Penfolds Winery near Adelaide. Conan Doyle mentioned visiting a winery in WANDERINGS OF A SPIRITUALIST (writing that his children were "wildly excited over the possibility of concealed snakes") but didn't identify the winery. Members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of South Australia (aka The Unscrupulous Rascals) have identified Penfolds and found a visitor's book with the signatures of Conan Doyle and his wife in the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. The book has been loaned to the South Australian Museum in Adelaide, where there will be champagne reception on Sept. 9. Penfolds still produces excellent wine, including Grange shiraz, Australia's most expensive wine (the 2008 vintage costs AU\$785.00 per bottle).
369. Carole Nelson Douglas' essay on "Why Can't They Get Irene Adler Right?" is now online at <www.mysteryscenemag.com>, along with other interesting content published in Janet Rudolph's magazine.
370. Finding excellent Sherlockian books that one can't read easily can be frustrating, but if you're reasonably fluent in Swedish, you'll enjoy Mattias Boström's FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK (Stockholm: Pirat Förlaget, 2013; 514 pp., SEK 195). The title translates as FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK, and Mattias reports on his research into Conan Doyle, and Sherlock Holmes, early and more recent Sherlockians, Sherlockian societies in various countries, pastiches, and stage, screen, radio, and television, and he's thoroughly up to date, with discussion of Sherlockiana on the Internet Holmes and the BBC's "Sherlock" television series. Readers in other countries will find sources for ordering the book at <www.tinyurl.com/n4jg2pf>.
371. "Elements of the Elementary" was an exhibition of modern multi-media art at White Lady Art in Dublin this month. There's information about the exhibition at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/kczpm7w>, and Oscar Ross has noted interesting videos at <www.tinyurl.com/l8sqfoe> and <www.youtube.com/kl3oy4v>. His web-site for The Crew of the S.S. May Day <www.thessmayday.co.uk> is a fine way to keep up with what's going on in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.
372. William Gillette's (non-Sherlockian) play "Too Much Johnson" has been made into films in 1919, directed by Donald Crisp, and again in 1938, directed by Orson Welles for a planned Mercury Theatre stage-and-screen production; the play was performed briefly without the film, which has never been seen by the public. A copy of the film was discovered in Italy in 2008 and has been restored, and the film will have its world premiere at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival on Oct. 9, and its U.S. premiere at the George Eastman House in Buffalo on Oct. 16. The restoration was supported by the National Film Preservation Foundation, which hopes to make the film available on the Internet later this year.
373. Laurie R. King's next (and non-Sherlockian) novel will be THE BONES OF PARIS, a sequel to TOUCHSTONE (2008), and her promotion campaign is underway; details at <www.tinyurl.com/murcwzr>. The launch party will be on Sept. 10 in San Francisco, and then she'll be touring (including Bouchercon in Albany). Laurie has not abandoned Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, and is now writing the next novel in that series; Russell and Holmes will visit Japan, and there's information about that at <www.laurierking.com>.

374. Aug 13 #5: The Baskerville Hall Club's DÖDEN PÅ EXCELSIOR is a collection of Swedish translations of nine of P. G. Wodehouse's Sherlockian writings, together with interesting contemporary illustrations, a foreword by Bengt Malmberg, and an afterword by Tomas Prenkert; it's available (\$6.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping to the U.S.) from Anders Wiggström (Byggmästarvägen 29, SE-16832 Bromma, Sweden <wiggstrom@telia.com>. Wouldn't it be nice (hint, hint) if a similar collection were available in English?
375. It's not the Blue Carbuncle, but a 7.59-carat round brilliantcut internally-flawless blue diamond called the "Premier Blue" will be offered at auction by Sotheby's in Hong Kong on Oct. 7; according to a story in the N.Y. Times (Aug. 19) Sotheby's expects the stone to bring about \$19 million, a record per-carat price for any diamond.
376. Peter Capaldi will be the next Doctor Who, succeeding Matt Smith, who will leave the series at the end of this year. Earlier this year (Jun 13 #6). Ladbrokes' odds on Benedict Cumberbatch were 6/1 (the odds on Capaldi were 20/1, but rose to 5/1 before the announcement).
377. You can visit <www.cbs.com/shows/elementary> for official news of the second season of "Elementary" (which premieres on Sept. 26); there are firstlook photographs from filming on location in London, and (at various web-sites) more on-set fan photos.
378. Aziz Bin Adam has reported a 56-minute speech delivered on July 4, 2011, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle via trance medium Arthur Kakalani Pacheco at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ljapt3t>; you can read transcripts of more messages from Conan Doyle at <www.tinyurl.com/lby62xv>.
379. Aziz also has noted a Comedy Central television series "Drunk History" in which "booze helps bring out the truth of our nation's history," with historical reenactments presented by inebriated storytellers; on Aug. 13 the program included a 3-minute segment on Houdini and Conan Doyle and Spiritualism, which you can watch at <www.tinyurl.com/llg6gl3>.
380. Oscar Ross has kindly forwarded the Sherlockology link to the imaginative teaser for the third season of "Sherlock" that aired this month at the end of the BBC repeat of "The Reichenbach Fall" <www.tinyurl.com/mfbbhbh>.
381. ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS (the excellent annotated collection of letters he wrote to his mother and others) has been discounted to \$4.95 by Edward R. Hamilton <www.tinyurl.com/n3zs49j> for the hardbound edition, and to £0.85 by Bibliophile Books <www.tinyurl.com/klz2mx> for the paperbound edition. Value for money indeed.
382. VOYAGE OF THE BLUE CARBUNCLE, by Carl L. Heifetz (Denver: Outskirts Press, 2013; 45 pp., \$8.95) is subtitled "journey into a parallel universe," and it's exactly that: an homage to the worlds of Star Trek and Holmes. Commander S. Verner, the chief science officer on the space-exploration ship Clipper, has a blue carbuncle acquired by an ancestor in or about 1899, and it has mysterious powers; there's also an appearance by space pirate Sebastian Moran, a bit of sex, and a successful conclusion.

383. Aug 13 #6: Barry Grant's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SWEDISH ENIGMA (Sutton: Severn House, 2012; 180 pp., \$27.95) is the third in his series of four novels featuring the original Sherlock Holmes (no longer frozen in a Swiss glacier) and his modern-day assistant James Wilson; there is more Wilson than Holmes (just as Holmes wasn't on hand for much of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES), with two mysteries to be solved; a gigantic hound (not at all supernatural) makes a brief appearance.
384. Snoo Wilson died on July 3. He was an anarchic playwright in the vanguard of British theater from the end of the 1970s onward; earlier he is reported to have worked on a script for the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1974), and then he wrote two plays about Conan Doyle: "In Defence of Fairies" (1997) starred Simon Callow, and "Moonshine" (1999) featured Robin Soans in the same role.
385. The Norwegian Explorers and Sherlock Holmes Collections' conference "Sherlock Holmes Through Time and Space" in Minneapolis was thoroughly successful, with 156 people on hand for the festivities (plan ahead for the next conference in the summer of 2016). The St. Paul Pioneer Press had a nice article (Aug. 12) about the gathering <www.tinyurl.com/l6vflnv> with a link to an audio recording of the Red-Throated League's performance of

- the Edith Meiser script for "Sherlock Holmes and the Monster of Gyre" (1944) as a radio play. The Minnesota library's "Continuum" interviewed Les Klinger during the conference, and posted a 6-minute video <www.tinyurl.com/kq3ujnf> at their web-site.
386. One of the souvenirs of the conference was J. RANDOLPH COX: A SHERLOCKIAN FESTSCHRIFT, a 137-page book nicely edited by Philip Bergen, with tributes to and writings by Randy, a long-time member of the Explorers. It's available from Phil (3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304); \$13.00 postpaid.
387. And if you'd like to see what you missed, Mike McCoy digitized and posted the 16-page conference program <www.twl.sh/174FdNC>.
388. Barbara Mertz died on Aug. 8. She was an Egyptologist and a prolific writer, with many series in print; better known as Elizabeth Peters and Barbara Michaels, she once joked that "Peters supplies me with a comfortable living, Michaels buys me lily ponds and gazebos." She acknowledged that her Elizabeth Peters series about Amelia Peabody Emerson owed much to the Canon, and as Barbara Michaels she wrote OTHER WORLDS (1999), a novel in which Frank Podmore, Nandor Fodor, Harry Houdini, and Arthur Conan Doyle suggest (and briefly debate) possible solutions to two unsolved ghostly 19th-century mysteries.
389. The Bay Area Sherlock Con (Jun 13 #6) featured a panel with Mike Kean, Randall Stock, and Marsha Pollak, and the Nerdophiles blog had a long article about the event <www.tinyurl.com/lboz6uq>.
390. There's an intriguing 4-minute trailer for the new "Sherlock Holmes" series due soon on Russian television, and it may or may not be available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/mu36nxk>. If this link has been taken down, you may still be able to find it the trailer, since it comes and goes. The series stars Igor Petrenko as Holmes, and Andrei Panin as Watson.
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391. Aug 13 #7: Imagine Sherlock Holmes applying for a license as a private detective. The BBC reported (July 31) that Britain's Home Office has announced that it wants to "ensure rigorous standards" in an industry where "rogue investigators" have been infringing privacy. Private investigators will be required to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority beginning in the autumn of 2014.
392. If you're seeking an excuse to watch the colorized version of Basil Rathbone's "The Woman in Green" (1945), it was on "Classic Movies with Ron McCloskey" on Aug. 1 on Edison TV (New Jersey) with a four-segment interview with Al Gregory <www.tinyurl.com/k7czbbp>.
393. "The Arthur Conan Doyle Experience" was a display of drawings and paintings from the scrapbook kept by Charles Altamont Doyle at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh, which also is the home of the Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists <www.25palmerstonplace.com>. The Edinburgh Evening News had an article about the exhibit on Aug. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/l2uxf8s>.
394. David Marcum's THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, published earlier with nine pastiches (Nov 12 #4) is again available (edited and revised) from MX Publishing in two volumes (£9.99/€12.99/\$16.95 each); Volume I (194 pp.) has six pastiches and Volume II (200 pp.) has three. Holmes and Watson visit Tennessee (where the author lives), and solve cases in England, with one of story explaining a family connection between Holmes and Solar Pons. There will be a book launch for both volumes at the Sherlock Holmes Plaza Hotel in Baker Street in London on Sept. 26; the author will be on hand for a Q&A session <www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/7835495177>, and other authors as well.
395. Also from MX Publishing: Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MURDER AT THE SAVOY AND OTHER STORIES (2013; 213 pp., same prices); five stories, with a bit of Gilbert & Sullivan, and with Holmes challenged to a duel, arrested for murder, and brought in to solve a mystery at Windsor Castle (not all in the same story).
396. Al Gregory found a Wooster Sherlock Frame at Home Depot, and it might be of interest to fans of Sherlock Holmes as well as Bertie Wooster. Or not: it is a professional paint roller frame, widely available at hardware stores and on the Internet; if you'd like to see just how professional it is, you can watch a 4-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/kmc9juo>.
397. The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street have organized their third "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze on Sept. 21 at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J. Additional information is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net> or Kate Karlson (607-669-4653) <kkarlson@stny.rr.com>.
398. The Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Newberry Library in Chicago on Oct. 12, starting at 9:30 am, is open to the public with no admission charge, and will feature David Spadafore (president of the library) on "Working with the Kittle Collection", Jon Lellenberg on "A. Conan Doyle: A Nineteenth-Century Man", and a team from Exhibits Design Group on "Recreating Sherlock Holmes' World" for the exhibition opening soon in Portland; more information at <www.newberry.org/programs-and-events>.
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399. Aug 13 #8: There was a panel about "Sherlock" at Comic-Con International in San Diego on July 18, with Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat, and Sue Vertue, with video at YouTube <www.youtube.com>; search for [comic-con 2013 sherlock heidi] to find all three parts of the video. There also was a less-official "Nerd HQ" conversation with the trio; there's a 57-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/kgrrmm3q>.
400. Reported: Margarlit Fox, in her THE RIDDLE OF THE LABYRINTH: THE QUEST TO CRACK AN ANCIENT CODE (New York: Ecco, 2013; 384 pp., \$27.99), uses Conan Doyle's dancing men to explain principles of cryptographic analysis.
401. Elizabeth Shipe's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Vow" will be performed by the Milwaukee Entertainment Group at the Brumder Mansion in Milwaukee from Sept. 20 to Oct. 13 <www.milwaukeeentertainmentgroup.com>.
402. Ken Ludwig's Edgar Award-winning comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be produced at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Mich., Oct. 2-27 <www.mbtheatre.com>. And at the Houghton Hall in Northport Village, N.Y., Oct. 25-Nov. 2, 2014 <www.minstrelplayers.org>.
403. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be presented by Bad Dog Productions at the Newton Cultural Centre in Surrey, B.C., on Oct. 23-31 <www.baskervilles.org>.
404. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Waterloo Community Playhouse in Waterloo, Iowa, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 2 <www.wcpbhct.org>.
405. The East Lynne Theater Company will perform a radio-play version of "The Norwood Builder" (dramatized by Gayle Stalhuth) on Nov. 4-5, 2011, and Mar. 16-17, 2012.
406. Theatre Mill will present Max Gee's new adaptation of "The Speckled Band" at the Treasurer's House in York on Nov. 14-24 <www.theatre-mill.co.uk>.
407. The Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers will present "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) on Feb. 11-Mar. 5 <www.floridarep.org>.
408. The Encore Stage & Studio will present Craig Sodaro's play "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre in Arlington, Va., Feb. 28-Mar. 9 <www.encorestage.org>.

409. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will open at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10 and runs through Jan. 5; tickets will go on sale at <www.oms.edu> on Sept. 5. Galleries in the exhibition will include recreations of Conan Doyle's study and the sittingroom at 221B Baker Street, interactive displays of science and history and on becoming a detective, and exhibits devoted to displaying the culture of Sherlock Holmes <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>.
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410. Sep 13 #1: The first volume of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES is now available as an e-book in various formats, including Kindle and Nook, and the second and third volumes presumably will follow, making things easier for those who don't want to lug the print editions around with them. But not much cheaper: the Kindle version costs \$25.14, and version for the Nook \$22.99. You can read all about it at <www.lesliesklinger.com> (the second volume of the short stories is coming soon).
411. Sorry about that: here's a repeat of the item about the Frogwares computer game (Aug 13 #1) with the correct URL: Frogwares has released a two-minute trailer for its new computer game "Crimes & Punishments" (the next title in its series of Sherlockian computer games) <www.youtube.com/mr258kk>; I have never played any of these games, but the graphics continue to improve, and are now truly spectacular.
412. And the video of Tyke and Teddie Niver impersonating the Gillettes (Aug 13 #3) was taken down from the web-site before the end of August.
413. Kent Ross reports that "The Ambience & Residents on Baker Street" will be the theme of the next "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 27-27, 2014; Kent (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@gmail.com> maintains the mailing list.
414. All eight of Carole Nelson Douglas' novels about Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes are now available as e-books, and with readers' guides. The titles are GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES; THE ADVENTURESS [GOOD MORNING, IRENE]; A SOUL OF STEEL [IRENE AT LARGE]; ANOTHER SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA [IRENE'S LAST WALTZ]; CHAPEL NOIR; CASTLE ROUGE; FEMME FATALE; AND SPIDER DANCE.
- A. J. Wright has noted Sherlock's Mystery Dinner Theatre in Columbus, Ga. <www.sherlockscolumbus.com>; they don't seem to have any Sherlockian plays in their repertoire, but there's S'ian artwork in their logo.
415. Declan Hughes' dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was broadcast by RTÉ Radio (Irish Republic) in two one-hour parts on Oct. 24 and 31, 2010, with Robert O'Mahoney as Holmes and Owen Roe as Watson. You can find two web-sites where you can buy downloads by searching for [declan hughes baskervilles].
416. Thomas F. Hanratty's THE SINGULAR ADVENTURE OF CHARLES GOODFOOTE (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2012; 292 pp., \$13.46) is subtitled "a thrilling tale of a perilous escapade set in the old west," and it's that with bells on; it also features a young Sherlock Holmes, who's in the U.S. to help Pinkerton agent Goodfoote pursue a villain, and who learns quite a bit from Goodfoote during the pursuit.
417. "Lost Land of the Volcano" (a three-part series broadcast by BBC-1 on Sept. 8-22, 2009) featured Mount Bosavi in New Guinea, where an expedition discovered a giant rat. The series is available in segments at YouTube, and you can see the Bosavi giant rat in two segments: <www.tinyurl.com/ln4m5bz> and <www.tinyurl.com/mf9ows6>.
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418. Sep 13 #2: There are two versions of the set of DVDs for the first season of the CBS series "Elementary": the six-disk set available from Amazon and elsewhere (\$27.99) and a seven-disk set available only from Target (also \$27.99). The seventh disk has bonus additional features: "Elementary" Supersized; CBS Launch Promo: Behind the Scenes; Photo Montage; and Actor Biographies.
419. Jerry Margolin is offering original art that shows five actors who have played Sherlock Holmes by artist SanJulian (\$1500); go to <www.tinyurl.com/nxkuu7q> to see a much better (and larger) image, and you can contact Jerry at <221bee@comcast.net>.
420. Stuart Palmer was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (his amusing essay "The I-O-U of Hildegard Withers" ran in The Baker Street Journal (Jan. 1948), discussing the great debt that Hildegard Withers owed to Sherlock Holmes). Otto Penzler's Mysterious Press is reissuing Palmer's work as e-books, and 17 titles are available (some about Withers and some not) <www.tinyurl.com/mdw334r>. The web-site has some interesting links, among them "In Search of the Classic Mystery Novel" (which last month reviewed A STUDY IN SCARLET).
421. Susan Dahlinger noted a report in The Bookseller (Nov. 30) that A. P. Watt, the world's first literary agency (founded in 1875), has been acquired by United Agents; Arthur Conan Doyle was a client of Watt for many years.
422. "Before Sherlock: The Novel Art of Detection" is an event scheduled at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrowgate on Oct. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/pnfwvfr>; the list of speakers includes Nick Rennison, author of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY (2005) and Robert Ryan, author of the pastiche DEAD MAN'S LAND (2013).
423. Wilfrid de Freitas is selling material from Don Redmond's collection; you can ask Wilfrid for a sales-list <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.
424. Douglas Kerr's CONAN DOYLE: WRITING, PROFESSION, AND PRACTICE (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013; 273 pp., \$55.00) suggests that "Arthur Conan Doyle was, arguably, Britain's last national writer," an intriguing concept that is explored in six sections: Sport, Medicine, Science, Law and Order, Army and Empire, and Spirits. Kerr is knowledgeable and interesting, and offers informed insights into Conan Doyle's life and career.
425. It can be interesting indeed when people you know only as names in credits turn out to be famous, or infamous, or sometimes both, as is the case with Harry Alan Towers: MR. TOWERS OF LONDON: A LIFE IN SHOW BUSINESS (Albany: BearManor Media, 2013; 157 pp., \$19.95) is his autobiography (subtitled "a life in show business"). Sherlockians may remember him as the producer of the 1954 radio series that starred John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, and Orson Welles, the and two films in the 1992 television mini-series "The Golden Years of Sherlock Holmes" with Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee, and as writer and producer of the 1994 television mini-series "The Lost World" starring John Rhys-Davies as Challenger. Towers knew and worked with just about everyone in the business during six-decades career, and tells enjoyable stories about them.
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426. Sep 13 #3: "Sherlock Holmes and the Stolen Emerald" had its world premiere at a theater in London in June; the delightful 6-minute silent comedy was written by Céline Terranova and funded by an IndieGoGo campaign; you can see the promotion for the campaign at <www.tinyurl.com/ml67b8t> and see trailers for the film and the sequel at <www.stolenemerald.com>, where you can also order a DVD or a download of the film.
427. The blurb reads: "A desolate moor, a diabolical dog in need of a muzzle, and some inbred locals; Sherlock Holmes is really up against it," from imprint Pulp! The Classics for their new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Harpden: Oldcastle Books, 2013; 192 pp., £5.99). They reissue classics with new covers in a pulp fiction style, with a dash of wry humor," in this case with a cover showing Rathbone and Bruce, and a promise of "Murder...Mystery...Walkies."
428. Further to the mathematics behind "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadow" (Feb 12 #4), Alain Goriely and Derek E. Moulton wrote about their work for Warner Bros. in the Apr. 2012 issue of SIAM News (the Newsjournal of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) <www.tinyurl.com/l6ub8gs>.

429. Turns out that Rebecca van Tassel (Jul 13 #5) is only one of the Sherlockian strippers at YouTube: Lauren Langley has uploaded the 9-minute "A Study in Pink: A Sherlock Holmes Burlesque" at <www.tinyurl.com/5r2ncv>.
430. For admirers of Dr. John H. Watson: "Before speaking of present day English writers, I must first pay tribute to Conan Doyle, the pioneer of detective writing, with his two great creations Sherlock Holmes and Watson---Watson perhaps the greater creation of the two. Holmes after all has his properties, his violin, his dressing gown, his cocaine, etc., whereas Watson has just himself--lovable, obtuse, faithful, maddening, guaranteed to be always wrong, and perpetually in a state of admiration! How badly we all need a Watson in our lives!" Agatha Christie, in her article "Detective Writers in England" (written in 1945 at the request of the Ministry of Information for publication in a Russian magazine), published in English for the first time as the Preface to a new edition of the Detective Club's collaborative novel ASK A POLICEMAN (London: Harper, 2013; 312 pp., £7.99); the novel was first published in 1933.
431. Hartley Nathan appeared (with deerstalker, pipe, and magnifying glass) on the cover of the September issue of Canadian Lawyer Magazine, and (together with Cliff Goldfarb) in an article "The Penang Lawyer" reporting on their Sherlockian and lawyerly work <www.tinyurl.com/nl8t7yv>.
432. A fine example of what can be done with Internet technology is an interactive map for "The Bruce Partington Plans" (reported by Diane Gilbert Madsen) <www.mapbox.com/tutorial-sherlock>.
433. "The Many Faces of Sherlock" will be the theme for the next "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 10:00 to 1:00 on Nov. 2; the event is sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, the library is at 400 Cathedral Street, and there is no charge to attend. You can see the flier at <www.tinyurl.com/lvrcl9v>.
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434. Sep 13 #4: There have been many changes in London since the time of Sherlock Holmes, including the skyline: a 37-story skyscraper under being built at 20 Fenchurch Street is reflecting sunlight at such intense levels that cars are being melted. For more about what's being called the "solar death ray" just run a Google search for [walkie talkie tower].
435. There hasn't been a really good dog toy for Sherlockians (and Sherlockian dogs) since "The Hound of the Baskervilles by A Collie Dog" (Feb 89 #5), but a "Zombie Foot Dog Toy" certainly ought to qualify; it's made by GAMAGO (\$9.99) and is available at Amazon and elsewhere. The label carries the warning "Not a Toy" (but with an image of a baby, suggesting that the company feels babies need more protection than pets).
436. The admirers of Brigadier General Sir Harry Flashman VC, whose papers were edited by George MacDonald Fraser, may be shocked to discover that Flashman "was nothing more than a Paris-based remittance man and a plagiarizing fraud," according to the writings of Captain Jasper Speedicut, whose papers have been found and are being edited by Christopher Joll. THE SPEEDICUT PAPERS: BOOK 1 (1821-1848): FLASHMAN'S SECRET (Bloomington: AuthorHouse, 2013; 290 pp., \$31.70/£23.47) was reported by John Baesch as reviewed in The Times on Apr. 1 by Thomas Arnold (if you're worried about the date of the review, it may help that the book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble). Speedicut's web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/nyr3lfu>.
437. "Sherlock Holmes Nevében" [In the Name of Sherlock Holmes"] is a Hungarian film that premiered in 2011 (Feb 13 #2); it will have its British premiere (with English subtitles) on Oct. 12 during the Cinemagic International Film & Television Festival for Young People in Belfast. There's a trailer (also with subtitles) at <www.youtube.com/watch?V=H_pUCQ_lg8> and a web-site for the film at <www.sherlockfilm.hu>.
438. News from the Toronto Film Festival: the next project for Bill Condon (director of the new Wikileaks movie "Fifth Estate") will be "A Slight Trick of the Mind" with Ian McKellen as a retired Sherlock Holmes, and a screenplay by Jeffrey Hatcher based on Mitch Cullin's novel (Apr 05 #2), and BBC Films is a co-producer. Hatcher wrote "The Duchess" (2008), in which Keira Knightly starred as Georgina, Fifth Duchess of Devonshire. If you'd like to see what McKellen looked like playing Sherlock Holmes in 2002, there is an image at <img-www.theonering.net/images/170302-snlmckellen30.jpg> showing him in the "Hot Air Balloon Mystery Theater" skit that aired on Saturday Night Live" on Mar. 16, 2002.
439. Scott Monty has announced that his long-running "The Baker Street Blog" is merging with his web-site "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (the last official post to the blog was on Aug. 28); you can read his announcement about the merger at <www.tinyurl.com/ktsqnp>. "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" was founded as a podcast in 2005 and has become far more than that; it is now billed as "News and Information About Sherlock Holmes in Popular Culture," and that's just what it is (the only word missing from the description is "Timely"). Scott and his contributors do an excellent job of making interested news and commentary available on the Internet.
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440. Sep 13 #5: John Baesch has forwarded a report in the Daily Telegraph (Apr. 4) on the campaign by the South Norwood Tourist Board to rename one of its two lakes Conan Doyle Lake; the board also want South Norwood to be declared the true Lake District, on the grounds that its great literary hero is far more popular than Wordsworth.
441. John also spotted a report in The Times (June 17) that the Policy Exchange think tank closing 30 of Britain's best-known but run-down prisons, including Dartmoor in Princetown, selling them to developers, and replacing them with huge prison "justice villages" holding up to 3,000 inmates.
442. "Great myths turn on simple pairs," Adam Gopnik wrote in the Sept. 9 issue of The New Yorker, "God and Lucifer, Sun and Moon, Jerry and George-- and so an author who makes a vital duo is rewarded with a long-lived audience. No one in 1900 would have thought it possible that a century later more people would read Conan Doyle's Holmes and Watson stories than anything of George Meredith's, but we do."
443. "Cocktail Party Physics" is the Scientific American blog by Jennifer Oullette, who discussed "Sherlock Holmes and the Dynamics of an Asteroid" (Aug. 27) with particular attention to the film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" <www.tinyurl.com/mua6bjm>.
444. Further to the bibliographic query (Aug 13 #3) about the plates that were used to produce Helan Halbach's edition of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974, Nick Utechin has heard from a few people who own plates (Rudy Faist, Jim Vogelsang, Bob Hess, and the dealer 221Books, has located nine plates (including his own). Nick will report in more detail on his discoveries in the Baker Street Journal, but there are many more of the book's 191 plates to be found in other hands; he's at <highfieldfarmhouse@yahoo.co.uk>.
445. "Elementary, My Dear Holmes!" is a new computer game under development by Victory Square Games after a successful Kickstarter campaign that wound up raising more than \$50,000 from on-line contributors; you can read about the game, and the campaign, at <www.tinyurl.com/mvwvwpaw>.
446. David Frost died on Aug. 31. He was a British journalist and broadcaster, perhaps best known for his groundbreaking interview with former president Nixon. Frost skyrocketed to renown as the host of the BBC television series "That Was the Week That Was" in 1962-1963; this caricature by Nicolas Bentley, published in the Sunday Telegraph, show Holmes and Watson examining Frost, presumably hoping to determine the reason for his rise to fame. The original artwork may still be available from dealer Peter Harrington (£400) <www.tinyurl.com/nzyz9r>.
447. John Cox is "wild about harry" (that's the name of his blog, which is all about Harry Houdini. Cox has blogged about the Houdini/Conan Doyle segment that was broadcast on "Drunk History" last month (Aug 13 #5), with a nice photograph showing the two families relaxing on the beach in Atlantic City

in 1922 <www.tinyurl.com/Il3qqmh>. He also has reported that the History channel has greenlit a four-hour Houdini mini-series, with Adrien Brody as Houdini and a script written by Nicholas Meyer <www.tinyurl.com/lrw9285>.

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448. Sep 13 #6: Plan well ahead: the Wessex Press has announced "From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond" at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 12-14, 2014 <www.wessexpress.com/html/g2b4.html>. Steve Doyle and Mark Gagen have attracted enthusiastic audiences for their past three conferences; the web-site has a link to show you what went on at the third one in 2011.
449. Fans of Benedict Cumberbatch and "Sherlock" will welcome Lynnette Porter's BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: IN TRANSITION (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 347 pp., £12.99/€14.99/\$18.95; subtitled as "an unauthorized performance biography," the book is an informative and carefully-researched discussion of all his work as an actor, and his relationship with his fandom, which includes both Sherlockology <www.sherlockology.com> (for the series) and Cumberbatchweb <www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk> (for the actor). The 412 sourcenotes demonstrate the depth of the research, and the results are interesting indeed.
450. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES PHILLIMORE, by Dan Andriacco (MX Publishing, 2013; 240 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is the fourth book in his series about Jeff Cody (in London for the second half of a honeymoon) and Sebastian McCabe (in London to debate Holmes-vs-Poe); there are two Phillimores (one of them Canonical and one quite modern), more than two murders, and some interesting sleuthing. The author's entertaining (and Sherlockian) blog is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.
451. Andriacco also is the co-author (with Kieran McMullen) of MX Publishing's THE AMATEUR EXECUTIONER (2013; 175 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$11.95), which is set in London in 1920 and features American reporter Enoch Hale, Wiggins (now a Chief Inspector in Scotland Yard), various literary and political figures, and Holmes, Watson, and others familiar from the Canon. There's a series of murders, and plenty of mystery.
452. Matthew J. Elliott has written scripts for Sherlockian radio, some reprinted last year in SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE AIR (Feb 12 #4), and pastiches; six atmospheric pastiches, first published in S'ian magazines and anthologies, have been collected in SHERLOCK HOLMES IN PURSUIT (MX Publishing, 2013; 182 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$12.95).
453. More from MX Publishing: Fred Thursfield's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY WRITER (2013; 196 pp., £8.99/€10.99/\$14.95); the story is set in 1920 and told by Watson's widow Mary, and involves her mystery-writer friend, both Holmes brothers, and World War skulduggery. Ross K. Foad's HOLMES IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS (2013; 161 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$12.95) has Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes and Irene Adler solving a series of Christmas murders: it's a print version of a seven-part video produced by the author, available at YouTube (search for the title).
454. Foad has created much more than his Christmas story, and has written about it all in MX Publishing's THE STORY AND SCRIPTS BEHIND NO PLACE LIKE HOLMES (2013; 231 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95): his web-site <www.nplh.co.uk> offers links to all his videos, as well as (click on "More") to the Howard Ostrom Holmes and Watson Collection, showing the results of his 30 years of collecting autographs of the people who have portrayed them on stage, screen, radio, television, and in other media.
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455. Sep 13 #7: Brad Keefauver has kept his promise to stop updating his "Sherlock Peoria" web-site (Apr 12 #1), which is still available at <www.sherlockpeoria.net> if you want to explore its archives, but "Sherlock Peoria" continues as a blog <sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com>, where Brad continues to report on topics that range from "Plan 221 from Outer Spice" to "Irene Adler in a pile of naked ladies".
456. The Waxflatter Ornithopter used in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) was estimated at £50,000 to £80,000 last month at Christie's (Aug 13 #1), and the final price was £55,875 (which includes the buyer's premium); the Triceratops skull sold for £193,875.
457. The John H. Watson Society has announced the names of winners of its First Annual Treasure Hunt (Jun 13 #6): the Open Team competition was won by the Sound of the Baskervilles (of Seattle) with a perfect score, and the Open Individual competition by Denny Dobry with 98 out of a possible 100. You can find details at the society's web-site <www.johnhwatsonsociety.com> and see the questions and answers; the questions for the Second Annual Treasure Hunt will be posted on May 1 (the contest will end on May 31).
458. The DVD set for "Sherlock: Season Three" has already been listed at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/q563yzt>, where you can pre-order the set (for \$23.99) and read amusing comments ("Amazon, Thou Hast Forsaken the Fangirls" and "What a Twist!") by reviewers.
459. PBS-TV's two-hour special on "How Sherlock Holmes Changed the World" (Feb 24 #2) will air in two parts on Nov. 19 and 26. The program "will reveal for the first time the astonishing impact that Holmes has had on the development of real criminal investigation and criminal techniques," and there's more information about the program at <www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr>.
460. "The Baskerville Beast" is a British musical written by Teddy Hayes, first performed in 2004, and a script and full musical score are now available to amateur theatrical groups. There's more information, including a 3-minute video trailer at their web-site <www.thebaskervillebeast.co.uk>.
461. There was a charity auction on eBay (benefiting Kidscape) last month offering naming rights in Anthony Horowitz's sequel to "House of Silk" (which is due next year); there were 49 bids and the winning bid was £3,700 (about \$5,723); that ensured that winner's character will meet Sherlock Holmes (a bid of more than £5,000 would have gotten the character killed off). But: one should note that in an interview with The Sunday Times (Mar. 24) Horowitz said that he has given up writing about Sherlock Holmes, and that the sequel won't have Holmes in it ("it is quite a dark thriller set after the supposed death of Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach Falls). In an interview in the Observer (Sept. 14) Horowitz said that "Sometimes you just have to rewrite a book: the new Sherlock Holmes novel wasn't working, so 42,000 words in I'm back to the beginning."
462. Oscar Ross has noted a Lego recreation of the sitting-room at 221B at the Lego CUUSOO web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nlb5a8a>. CUUSOO is a Japanese partner of the Lego Group ("cuusoo" reported means "wish" in Japanese), and you can search the web-site for [sherlock] to see some other interesting work.
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463. Sep 13 #8 With regard to Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (Jun 13 #6), asking a federal court to rule that the characters of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson are not protected by federal copyright laws, and that writers, filmmakers, and others can use the characters in new stories without paying license fees to the owners of the remaining copyright on the stories, the Estate has filed to oppose the motion, and Les has filed his response. All the documents in the case (and many of the reports in the press) are available at <www.free-sherlock.com>.
464. Y CYLTH BRITH is the newest addition to the list of foreign languages into which a Sherlock Holmes story has been translated; it's "The Speckled Band" in Welsh, and the translation, arranged by The Deerstalkers of Welshpool, was featured by BBC News Mid Wales on Aug. 31. The report (and some audio of a bit of the story read in Welsh) is at <www.tinyurl.com/owuvtj3>, and you can order the pamphlet (£6.00 plus shipping) from Roy Upton-Holder, the head of the Welsh society <ruptonholder@onetel.com>.
465. And as usual there's no shortage of Sherlockian dramatics, old and new:
466. Brandon Palmer's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Murders" is being performed by the Byers-Evans House Theatre Company in Denver through Oct. 12 (303-620-4933).

467. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is being performed at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre in Fort Gordon, Ga., through Oct. 12 <www.fortgordon.com/theatre/php>.
468. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the fine parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being presented by the Theater Project at the Burgdoff Center in Maplewood, N.J., through Oct. 13 <www.thetheaterproject.org>.
469. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" can be seen the Ankeny Community Theatre in Ankeny, Iowa, Oct. 4-20 <www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com>. And at the Fountain Hills Theater Mainstage in Fountain Hills, Ariz., Oct. 25-Nov. 10 <www.fhtaz.org>.
470. John DeGaetano's "Sherlock Holmes 10 Minute Plays" will be at the Leicester Square Theatre in London, Oct. 2-5 <www.leicesterquaretheatre.com> and at the Kings Head Theatre in Islington, Oct. 8-12 <www.kingsheadtheatre.org>. The author's web-site is at <www.johndegaetanoproductions.com>, and there's a book with nine plays available at Amazon and elsewhere, and some videos at YouTube.
471. Ken Ludwig's Edgar Award-winning comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" can be seen at the Summit Playhouse in Summit, N.J., Nov. 1-16 <www.summitplayhouse.org>.
472. Theatre Mill will present Max Gee's new adaptation of "The Speckled Band" at the Treasurer's House in York, Nov. 14-24, and at Ripley Castle in Harrogate, Nov. 26-28 <www.theatre-mill.co.uk>.

473. Oct 13 #1: Nick Utechin has noted evidence that the debate over whether the Sherlock Holmes stories qualify as literature has ended, at least according to The Times, whose recent (Sept. 17) "quick guide to everything you should know about culture" includes 25 books "that changed the course of literature." The chronological list starts with THE ILIAD and goes on to include A STUDY IN SCARLET.
474. Don Libey's THE BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Santa Rosa: Campbell & Lewis, 2013; 238 pp., \$17.00) offers both Mycroft's MY BROTHER, SHERLOCK and Sherlock's MONTAGUE NOTATIONS (Sep 12 #5). Just as Sherlock Holmes showed that there's a great deal of invention in Watson's writings, Mycroft Holmes explains that his brother is similarly unreliable.
475. Bouchercon 2013 in Albany was enjoyable, including the Sherlockian panel. Bouchercon 2014 ("Murder at the Beach" will be held in Long Beach, Nov. 13-16; Bouchercon 2015 (no title yet) in Raleigh, N.C., Oct. 8-11; Bouchercon 2016 ("Down in New Orleans") in New Orleans, Sept. 15-18; Bouchercon 2017 ("Passport to Murder") in Toronto, Oct. 12-15; and Bouchercon 2018 ("Crime in the Sunshine") in Saint Petersburg, Sept. 13-16.
476. "A Stout Heart in the Great Cesspool: Arthur Conan Doyle in London" was the title of an interesting lecture given by Richard Burnip at Gresham College on July 2, 2012, part of a series on "Literary London Crime"; thanks to the wonders of modern technology, there's audio, video and a transcript available at <www.tinyurl.com/n8vgbq5>.
477. "Sherlock Phone-Box Shrine Desecrated" was the eye-catching headline on the story on the Londonist web-site (Sept. 14) that "one of London's most cherished fan sites has been stripped bare" <www.tinyurl.com/ol552o7>. The fan site is red phone box outside St. Bart's Hospital, where fans of "Sherlock" left cards, ribbons, graffiti, and other mementos after Holmes jumped from the roof of the hospital at the end of the second series. A "cultural vandal" removed most of the messages, according to the story, and "the naked phone box is bereft of its individuality" (one assumes that it wasn't naked for very long).
478. D. A. Joy's MURDER IN WHITECHAPEL: THE ADVENTURE OF THE POST MORTEM KNIFE (Domnall Publishing, 2013; 481 pp., \$15.25) has Holmes and Watson solving the mystery of Jack the Ripper, and includes retellings (with some differences from the Canon) of the end of "The Greek Interpreter" as well as four other recorded and unrecorded cases from the time of the Ripper.
479. The results of Howard Ostrom's investigation of the first Sherlockian movie that actually was filmed ("Sherlock Holmes Baffled" was created to be shown on Mutoscopes) have been published at the Baker Street Babes' web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/msg89lg>; the film in question is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (or Held for a Ransom)", released by Vitagraph in 1905. Filmographers have long tended to rely on earlier filmographers, and there's a lengthy list of film resources that identify Maurice Costello as the actor who play Holmes; Howard explaining in detail why it couldn't have been Costello, and suggests who the actor really was.

480. Oct 13 #2: There's nothing truly Sherlockian in Mark Leibovich's dishy new book THIS TOWN, but nevertheless there's a connection: Roxanne Roberts and Amy Argetzinger had an item about the book in their column "The Reliable Source" in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/onqddsp> mentioning his account of a book party Tammy Haddad hosted for the son of Michelle Obama's chief of staff Susan Sher. The host actually was Jill Biden, and the party was at the official home of vice president Joe Biden; the book's author was Susan Sher's son Graham Moore, and his book was THE SHERLOCKIAN (Nov 10 #8). Roberts and Argetzinger's earlier item on the book party can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/oskb6gf>. There's more about the party, and the book, and the author, at his web-site <www.thesherlockian.com>.
481. The Museum of London's major exhibition on Sherlock Holmes (Jul 13 #2) will open on Oct. 14, 2014, and close on Apr. 12. 2015; there's a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/mp263ux>.
482. Further to the item (Jun 13 #7) about Radio Spirits <www.radiospirits.com>, the company offers two sets of CDs of particular interest, each with program notes by Bill Nadel: "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (16 programs starring Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce) and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (16 programs starring John Gielgud and Ralph Richardson (at \$31.95 each).
483. John Moffatt died on Sept. 12, 2012. He had a long career as an actor, on stage, screen, radio, and television; in the 1980s he was a member of the BBC's Radio Drama Company, and played both Holmes (in "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" in 1981) and Watson (with Roy Marsden in a series written by Grant Eustace, and with Dinsdale Landen in "Sherlock's Last Case" all in 1987).
484. Oscar Ross spotted a British web-site maintained by Penny Golightly, whose motto is ("who cares if we're broke, let's have fun anyway"), and has provided some helpful hints on a "221B Baker Street Makeover on a Budget with Argos" <www.tinyurl.com/m5jfggb> for anyone who wants to decorate a living room in the style of the sitting room seen in the BBC's "Sherlock" television series (Argos is a British on-line shopping web-site).
485. Anthony Hinds died on Sept. 30. He had a long career in the film business, and in the 1950s was one of the founders of Hammer Films. He was the producer of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and he also dramatized the story as a three-act play performed by the Steeple Aston Players in 1982.
486. Pierre Decourcelle adapted William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" as a fiveact play performed in Paris in 1907 (the fifth act was provided by Decourcelle); if you'd like to see (or download) the television film "Une aventure de Sherlock Holmes" based on the play (as broadcast by ORTF in 1967), it is available at <www.ina.fr>, along with other interesting Sherlockian and Doylean video.
487. PBS-TV's two-hour special on "How Sherlock Holmes Changed the World" aired on the National Geographic channel in Britain on Oct. 8, giving Holmesians a leg up on Sherlockians, who won't see the program until it airs on PBS-TV in the U.S. in two parts on Nov. 19 and 26. There's more information about the program at <www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr>.

488. Oct 13 #3: The "Knickerbocker Classics" (from Race Point Publishing) now includes THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, clothbound and in a slip case, with an insightful (as might be expected) foreword written by Daniel Stashower (2013; 1,200 pp., \$35.00/£20.00). Dan says he's very pleased to be able to give his two boys an edition of the Canon that has a foreword by their old man.
489. TeeFury is an interesting retailer: their T-shirt designs are available for only one day <www.teefury.com>. "The Science of Deduction" (with artwork by Megan Lara) was sold on Sept. 16. You can vote to bring designs back, but of course you need to visit the web-site daily to find out if the design's available again. Or you can go to her web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lnssnk9> and buy the design on clothing or as a print or stickers.
490. Bryan Talbot, a well-known British comic-book artist, has designed the colorful new Sherlock Holmes Society of London Christmas Card. Packets of ten cards cost £7.50 postpaid to the U.K., £8.50 to Europe, and £12.00/\$20.00 to the U.S.; details at the Society web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
491. You can see more of his artwork at his web-site <www.bryan-talbot.com>.
492. "There is as much sense in Hafiz as in Horace, and as much knowledge of the world," Sherlock Holmes said (in "A Case of Identity"). Michael Dirda gave high marks to FACES OF LOVE: HAFEZ AND THE POETS OF SHIRAZ, translated from the Persian by Dick Davis (2013) in a review in the Washington Post (Sept. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/o4aknw7>. And yes, there's more than one way to spell the name of the 13th-century poet.
493. It's always nice when long-lost Sherlockian films are discovered, and even nicer when they're made available on DVD, as is the case with "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1914); it's a German silent film, directed by Rudolf Meinert, with Alwin Neuss as Holmes. It's available, or soon will be, with English subtitles, from Editions Filmmuseum <www.edition-filmmuseum.com>.
494. Ruth Berman has reported Eleanor Arnason's science-fiction pastiche "Holmes Sherlock: A Hwarhath Mystery" available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/kdxphwd> and reprinted in Gardner Dozois' anthology THE 30TH ANNUAL YEAR'S BEST SCIENCE FICTION (St. Martin's Press, 2013); the Hwarhath first appeared in her novel RING OF SWORDS (1993), and she has written a series of stories about them.
495. If you'd like to see what a splendid copy of the first British edition of THE LOST WORLD in dust jacket looks like, go to <www.tinyurl.com/mstucyu>; it went to auction at Swann Galleries in New York on June 20, estimated at \$6,000-9,000, and it sold for \$22,800 (including the buyer's premium).
496. The Speckled Band of Boston will present a special event, open to the public, on Nov. 15 at Harvard University in Cambridge: there will be a sherry reception at the Houghton Library and a viewing of treasures from the H. W. Bell Speckled Band Collection, cocktails and dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club, and a presentation by Daniel Posnansky on "Frederic Dorr Steele, The Baker Street Irregulars, and Vincent Starrett: A Perfect Storm". More information is available from Richard Olken <speckledband@comcast.net>.
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497. Oct 13 #4: Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (62 pp.) offers an interesting mix of Sherlockian and Doylean poetry and prose, including Andrew Vetsch's amusing analysis of the Cumberbatch/Freeman "The Blind Banker", Andrew L. Solberg's thoughts about the future of the S'ian world, and Jisoo Choi's winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, named in honor of the late Steve Clarkson and sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md. The cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).
498. Catching up: John O'Connell's THE BASKERVILLE LEGACY (Feb 11 #6) also has a trade paperback edition as BASKERVILLES: THE MYSTERIOUS TALE OF SHERLOCK'S RETURN (London: Short Books, 2012; 190 pp., £7.99) (New York: Marble Arch, 2013; 190 pp., \$16.00); it's an extremely fictionalized account of how Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson wrote HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.
499. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-10.html>, offering Sherlockian news, commentary, and discussion.
500. Compliments and congratulation to retired Court of Appeals Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt: on Sept. 26 the Dutchess County Courthouse was dedicated in his honor. Al served as Dutchess County assistant district attorney, district attorney, and county judge from 1964 to 1981, and then in the state judiciary and on the Court of Appeals until he retired in 2006.
501. Anyone interested in Canonical birds will welcome Phil Attwell's report of the "Tweet of the Day" on BBC Radio 4. You can hear (and hear about) more than a hundred British birds, including a cormorant, a storm petrel, and a ringed plover <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01s6xyk>.
502. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (Aug 13 #8) opened at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10, and closes on Jan. 5; there's a colorful web-site at <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>. The exhibition is scheduled next at the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, Ohio, opening on Feb. 6 and closing on Sept. 8. There was a 3-minute report on KOIN-TV on Oct. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/kfh9u36> (Conan Doyle's great-grand-nephew Richard Doyle was on hand to open the exhibition).
503. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has its focus on Donald Redmond, whose personal papers have been donated to the Collection: Chris Redmond writes about his father's work on the Library's "Bigelow Index" (he also indexed The Baker Street Journal for many years), and Peggy Perdue describes his work in and for the Collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
504. Further to the item (Sep 13 #5) on the campaign by the South Norwood Tourist Board to name a local lake in honor of Conan Doyle, the board now proposes the name Lake Conan (keeping the tradition of giving lakes one-word names) <www.southnorwoodtouristboard.com>, but has opened a poll to allow you to vote on various names <www.micropoll.com/a/mpview/1143074-3806016>.
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505. Oct 13 #5: "How Benedict Cumberbatch and Alan Turing Helped a Writer Find Success in Hollywood" was the title on a long report by E. A. Hanks on BuzzFeed (Sept. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/ktagu5a>, noted by Samantha Wolov. The writer is Graham Moore, author of the pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (2010), and the screenplay is for the film "The Imitation Game" (due next year, starring Cumberbatch as Turing).
506. The late Robert Joynt wrote five pastiches published in Neurology, and an unfinished sixth pastiche was found on his computer, and there's now a contest to complete the story (the deadline is Nov. 11). Details and the text can be found at <www.neurology.org/content/81/11/1018.full>, with links to the first five stories.
507. It's probably merely a coincidence, but many viewers of the first episode of the second season of CBS-TV's "Elementary" noted that one of the commercials also was briefly Sherlockian <www.tinyurl.com/k5cl2hb>; for those who haven't read "The Second Stain" (or don't remember the story), Eduardo Lucas was the secret agent found murdered in his flat in Godolphin Street.
508. Jack Tracy, when he died in 1996, left behind many frustrated customers, as well as a wealth of interesting stories; many of those stories can be found in Phil Dematteis' "The Strange Life and Death of Jack Tracy" (a paper Phil delivered at a recent meeting of The Hansom Wheels and available at their web-site) <www.hansomwheels.com>.

509. Ales Kolodrubec has posted a nice tribute to John Bennett Shaw at the web-site of the Ceska spolecnost Sherlock Holmese, on the occasion of the centenary of John's birth on Oct. 10, 2013 <www.tinyurl.com/lve5qvo>. If you aren't fluent in Czech can read it in English (thanks to Google Translate) at <www.tinyurl.com/mv5gwgu>.
510. Benedict Cumberbatch was on the cover of Time magazine (Oct. 28), but only on the cover of the international edition. Concerned "about what it says for feminism," he no longer refers to his female fans as Cumberbitches, suggesting that "Cumberbabes might be better". He was inside the U.S. edition, but not the cover. Radio Times provided its readers with a 1-minute video of the shoot <www.tinyurl.com/nl7xulu>, and there's much more about him at <www.benedictcumberbatch.co.uk>.
511. If you're wondering what Time magazine thought was more important for its domestic edition, the cover showed "The United States of Texas" (by way of highlighting a long story on "Why Texas Is Our Future" that was subtitled "It's not an accident that three of the five fastest-growing cities are in Texas. It's more like destiny."
512. HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLES: FROM DEMON DOGS TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (New Brunswick: Global Communications, 2012; 273 pp., \$17.06.) is edited by Timothy Green Beckley, who says he is "a friend of all things weird and unknown," and explains that "since an early his life has more or less revolved around the paranormal." The book includes accounts of phantom black dogs in Britain, Canada, the United States, and other countries; a reprint of the story by Conan Doyle, and other related material.
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513. Oct 13 #6: Sherlock Holmes' 159th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 17, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.
514. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street); the speaker will be James O'Brien, author of THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (2012); his book won an Edgar (best critical/biographical) from the Mystery Writers of America. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below); tickets will not be sold at the door.
515. The Baker Street Babes' "Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet Charity Ball" will start at 8:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South), offering appetizers, live music, toasts, a costume competition, prizes, and an auction; the cost is \$35.00, and the proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project (last year's event raised nearly \$3,000 for the project). More information be posted soon at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>.
516. Otto Penzler's traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
517. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue (at 19th Street), with entertainment (an original presentation) provided by the Friends of Bogie's; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Send checks to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.
518. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); details are available from Becky Robare (111 North 9th Street #300, Philadelphia, PA 10107 (917-817-1608) <robareowl@gmail.com>.
519. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.
520. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 175 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 16.
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521. Oct 13 #7: On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite (on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel at 45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; you can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> for information about dealers' tables.
522. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:15 am, with Wodehousean entertainment.
523. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 in the second-floor lounge at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); there will be a cocktail-party buffet and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks), and the usual (perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 29 or at the door.
524. For those who wish to continue partying, there are as yet no plans (firm or infirm) for sporting events at Kennedy's or other venues on Saturday evening; stay tuned (as they say) for a further report.
525. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold their informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am until "the last egg is exterminated" at Harley's Smoke Shack and BBQ at 356 West 44th Street (between Eighth and Ninth Avenues); \$20.00 payable by cash or check at the door. The brunch is open to all, but reservations are requested; details about a fine way to end a long weekend are available from Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.
526. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$189.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 22. Guest cards for the Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians.
527. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> after Nov. 8 and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.
528. Other hotels offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.hotels.com>;

you will be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

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529. Oct 12 #8 The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
530. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. News about additional events will be found in next month's issue of this newsletter.
531. Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson have a well-illustrated article on "Voices from the Darkness: A Look at African-American Sherlock Holmes" available at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kpa28ad>, and it's not just Sherlock Holmes: they start with Conan Doyle's campaign against what he called "The Crime of the Congo" and his invitation to referee the heavyweight contest between Jim Jeffries and Jack Johnson, and includes detailed coverage of films, television, records, and Internet video.
532. Save the date: Marcus Geisser reports that there will be a conference honoring Conan Doyle's visits to Davos (in Switzerland) on Sept. 26-28, 2014. Save another date: the Baker Street Irregulars Trust will sponsor a conference at Harvard University on June 5-7, 2015, focusing on the bibliophilic aspects of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle, with the possibility of field trips to Boston and Vermont. Save still another date: the BSI will hold a conference celebrating Sherlock Holmes and the Arts in mid-September 2016 at the Chautauqua Institution in far southwestern New York state. Details on all of these will be reported when they're available.
533. Those who pursue the Canon in other languages will welcome a first Klingon translation: "The Blue Carbuncle" (Minneapolis: 221T Press, 2013; 31 pp., \$13.74); the translation's by Bing, with assistance from Karen Ellery, and you can order from Lulu <www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt>.
534. Madeleine George's new play "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be produced at the Playwrights Horizons Mainstage Theater in New York, Nov. 17-Dec. 29 <www.playwrightshorizons.org>; this Watson is "trusty sidekick to Sherlock Holmes, loyal engineer who built Bell's first telephone, unstoppable super-computer that became reigning "Jeopardy!" champ, and amiable techno-dweeb who, in the present day is looking for love." There's a five-minute video about the play's background at <www.tinyurl.com/phd7ahv>.
535. Finally, nicely in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for "the best Sherlock Holmes books and DVDs of the year" is on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.
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536. Nov 13 #1: There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: The Gaslight Gala (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) has a new venue: The Dover Parlour (228 Thompson Street, located between Bleeker and West 3rd Streets in Greenwich Village); the event will run from 7:00 to 11:00 pm on Friday, with a cost of \$105 for dinner, entertainment, and open bar (discounted to \$75 for people younger than 21). Details are available from Becky Robare (111 North 9th Street #300, Philadelphia, PA 10107 (917-817-1608) <robareowl@gmail.com>).
537. Saturday-morning visitors to the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) will be able to buy books (some signed or inscribed) from the collection of the late Ted Schulz, with proceeds kindly donated by Vinnie Brosnan to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust. The books will be on sale at Bob Hess' table.
538. Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner on Saturday at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); \$47.00 (including tax and tip) and the details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.
539. It's not quite a birthday-festivities event, but everyone surely will want to be home in time to watch the U.S. premiere of the third season of "Sherlock" on PBS-TV on Jan. 19. The first episode will of course reveal just how Benedict Cumberbatch survived his fall from the roof of St. Bart's.
540. There's an exhibition on "Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul" at the Morgan Library (225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street) that includes some of the authors he influenced, one of them being Conan Doyle, who's represented by the first page of the manuscript of Chapter XI of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (on loan from the Berg Collection of the N.Y. Public Library). Also on display is a copy of Poe's "Tamerlane" with a mention of the article "Have You a Tamerlane in Your Attic" (but Greg Darak reports, without mention of the author of the article: Vincent Starrett).
541. MC Black suggests that anyone coming to London for the annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London (on Jan. 11) may be interested in one of his Detective Walks. He offers a discounted price of £5.00 to readers of this newsletter, and he's at <mcb@detectivewalks.co.uk>.
542. Tina Rhea spotted a report on Chironius challenger, a newly-named species of snake that was found at Maringma Tepui in the Pakamaraima Mountains on the Guyana-Brazil border. The species was named by Philippe J. R. Kok in 2010 in honor of Professor Challenger, and you can read all about it at the Reptile Database <www.tinyurl.com/ltrpu6>.
543. It's not Sherlockian, but here's your chance to see Christopher Lee, accompanied by sexy back-up dancers and a goblin, singing about booze in an effort to corrupt an alcoholic super-hero into falling off the wagon. It's a clip from an Australian musical comedy "The Return of Captain Invincible" (1983), kindly made available by Dread Central <www.tinyurl.com/mth3vr3>.
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544. Nov 13 #2: Benedict Cumberbatch continues to be busy: he'll play Lt. Col. Percival Fawcett in the film "The Lost City of Z" (based on the book by David Grann). Fawcett spent many years trying to find a lost civilization hidden in the Matto Grosso in Brazil, and on his last expedition, in 1925, he vanished, never to be heard from again. He met Conan Doyle in 1910, and you can read more about them in THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD, by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin (1996): they quote from Fawcett's memoirs EXPLORATION FAWCETT (eventually published in 1953). He was in London to lecture about his exploration of the Ricardo Franco Hills, and later wrote: "They stood like a lost world, forested to their tops ... So thought Conan Doyle when later in London I spoke of these hills and showed photographs of them! He mentioned an idea for a novel on Central South America and asked for information, which I told him I should be glad to supply. The fruit of it was his 'Lost World'."
545. Gerald N. Wachs ("Sir James Saunders") died on Nov. 8. Jerry was a dermatologist who presided over the annual recertification examination of The Sir James Saunders Society (the professional society for Sherlockian dermatologists), co-author of the definitive bibliography of Tom Stoppard, and a collector whose interests ranged from 19th-century English poetry to Sherlockian lapel pins. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1995.
546. Further to the mention of the Canadian one-hour television series "Murdoch Mysteries" (Jun 13 #1), it's now available in the United States on the Ovation channel as "The Artful Detective". It's nicely done, set in Toronto in the 1890s, and stars Yannick Bisson as Inspector Murdoch. Geraint Wyn Davies has appeared as Arthur Conan Doyle in four episodes ("Elementary, My Dear Murdoch", "Belly Speaker", "A Study in Sherlock", and "Return of Sherlock"), with the last two also featuring Andrew Gower as a man who claims that he is Sherlock Holmes.

547. Tim Federle's *TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD: COCKTAILS WITH A LITERARY TWIST* (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2013; 148 pp., \$15.00) contains atmospheric illustrations by Lauren Mortimer and amusing instructions and recipes for cocktails such as "The Blizzard of Oz", "The Malted Falcon", and "Romeo and Julep", and "The Adventures of Sherbet Holmes" (which combines berry sherbet, Champagne, ginger ale, and blueberries).
548. SHAATJ! That's "Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz" (now under the auspices of The Sherlockians by Invitation Only Society), and there will be an extravaganza held in Davenport, Iowa, birthplace of Dixieland great Bix Beiderbecke, in July or August 2014. If you would like to be on their mailing list, contact Donald B. Izban (1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068).
549. Jim Weiss continues to offer his excellent recordings for younger audiences and has added *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* to his list (\$13.95 on CD). It is nicely done, as are his earlier *SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN* ("The Mazarin Stone"/"The Speckled Band"/"The Musgrave Ritual"/"The Blue Carbuncle") and *MYSTERY! MYSTERY!* ("The Red-Headed League" and tales by Chesterton and Poe); you can listen to samples at his web-site <www.greathall.com>. There are many non-Sherlockian tales in his catalog (Greathall Productions, Box 5061, Charlottesville, VA 22905 (800-477-6234)).
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550. Nov 13 #3: "Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" (the new play-reading series curated and introduced by Les Klinger) was launched earlier this year with Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" (Feb 13 #3), and will continue with Bonnie MacBird's dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" at the Contrapuntal Performance Hall in Brentwood (Los Angeles) on Dec. 8. Details at their web-site <www.sherlockholmesinbrentwood.com>.
551. Barbara Hicks died on Sept. 6. She had a long career on stage, screen, and television in supporting roles, not all of them serious (her obituaries in the British press noted that Mel Brooks considered her the funniest woman he had ever met). She also played Emily Garrideb in Granada's "The Mazarin Stone" (1994).
552. Ann Treneman's *FINDING THE PLOT: 100 GRAVES TO VISIT BEFORE YOU DIE* (London: Robson Press, 2013; 307 pp., £12.00/\$16.99) offers a delightful tour of what she calls the "dead interesting" inhabitants of British graveyards, including Conan Doyle (the cover photographs show her at his grave-site); her essays are informative and interesting, and her choices range from the famous to the infamous, from the well known to those who ought to be.
553. If you remember Cliff Notes and Monarch Notes (happily used for many years by pre-Internet students), you won't be surprised that there now are Mojo Notes <www.watchmojo.com>, noted by Andrew Vetsch. Their book videos include "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/k8x928l>.
554. Alan Rettig has reported on his visit to Moriarty, N.M. (which now proudly calls itself "the crossroads of opportunity"); the city has a web-site, at <www.cityofmoriarty.org>, but the Frontier Saloon has vanished, and there isn't even an historical plaque honoring the site of the Moriarty Memorial Manure Pile invented by John Bennett Shaw. What the town does have (and this would surely please John) is the Sierra Blanca Brewing Company, which has a web-site <www.sierrablancabrewery.com> and craft beer that "is brewed in the wild west and is out of this world!" (according to the company, not Alan). But Alan did try a bottle of Rodeo Cold lager, right off the line, and describes as a very good lager from a most charming brewery.
555. Don Pollock has reported that the Easton Press has announced a new edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* <www.tinyurl.com/kg4n27s>; leather-bound, with new illustrations by Matthew Stewart, signed by the artist, and limited to 1,200 copies (\$267.00).
556. The manuscript of "The Marriage of the Brigadier" has been added to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library; it's the last of the stories he wrote about the Brigadier Etienne Gerard, and the manuscript was one of many Conan Doyle manuscripts owned by William Randolph Hearst. Randall Stock offers more information about the manuscript at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mo37d9m>.
557. There's a short list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes and who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes. One of them is Christopher Plummer, who starred as John Barrymore in "Barrymore" (which ran for more than seven months on Broadway in 1997). The play was filmed in 2011, and it will air on "Great Performances" on PBS-TV on Jan. 31.
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558. Nov 13 #4: Matt Laffey offers all sorts of Sherlockian comment and information at his "Always 1895" web-site, including an interesting discussion of "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (the play written by Jeremy Paul for Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke <www.tinyurl.com/kehjv6p>. Look for the link (in the first paragraph) to an audio recording of the play, as performed by Brett and Hardwicke.
559. *SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. DRACULA* (1978) was Loren D. Estleman's first Sherlockian pastiche, and he has now edited the anthology *SONS OF MORIARTY AND MORE STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Blue Ash: Tyrus Books, 2013; 207 pp., \$24.99), which includes his own title novella and reprints of seven fine older pastiches by others ranging from Arthur Conan Doyle (1896) to Lenore Carroll (2002).
560. Otto Penzler has edited *THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES* (New York: Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 2013; 672 pp., \$25.00); it's billed on the cover as "the most complete collection of Yuletide whodunits ever assembled," and it contains 60 stories, five of them Sherlockian. One of them (of course) is "The Blue Carbuncle" with others by Peter Todd, S. C. Roberts, Edward D. Hoch, and Gillian Linscott.
561. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-10.html>, offering Sherlockian news, commentary, and discussion.
562. "Nova: Cold Case JFK" aired on PBS-TV on Nov. 13, examining whether modern forensic science can uncover fresh clues about the assassination of President Kennedy; Greg Darak reports that at the end of the program one of the investigators says, "if you rule out that which is impossible, that which remains, no matter how seemingly improbable, is the truth." There was no mention of the source of the quote, and it's possible that it's now getting to be part of cultural literacy (things people are expected to know), along with "Moriarty" and "the dog in the night-time" (often seen now without any mention of Sherlock Holmes). You may still be able to view the program online at <www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/cold-case-jfk.html>.
563. "Willkommen to Reichenbach Hall" is the motto of Reichenbach Hall, noted by Will Walsh at 5 West 37th Street in New York <www.reichenbachhall.com>. He has not yet found anything Sherlockian on the menu, but is investigating.
564. The two-hour special on "How Sherlock Changed the World" aired on the National Geographic channel in Britain on Oct. 8, and it will be broadcast by PBS in the U.S. on Dec. 17 (delayed from the November dates that were originally announced). You can go to <www.tinyurl.com/bc282lr> for more information about the program.
565. The Crime Writers' Association (the British equivalent of the Mystery Writers of America) is celebrating its 60th anniversary and has polled its members to determine the Best Ever Crime Writer: the winner was Agatha Christie (Conan Doyle came in second). Christie's *THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD* won as Best Ever Crime Novel (*THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* came in third, behind Christie's *MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS*). "Sherlock Holmes" did win as The Best Ever Crime Series.
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566. Nov 13 #5: Alexander Orlov reports that the new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" series, with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrei Panin as Watson, premiered his month. You can see many of the episodes [look for the (approximately) 90-minute links] at <www.tinyurl.com/ovo9nmv>; it's all in

- Russian, of course, but one hopes that when the series is released on DVDs there will be subtitles in English. The programs may also be available at YouTube. The episodes were broadcast in Russia in two parts, each 45 minutes, four days a week (Monday through Thursday), which explains why they are so quickly on the Internet.
567. Rebecca Eaton has presided over the PBS/WGBH "Masterpiece" series for more than 25 years, and she has many excellent stories to tell in MAKING MASTERPIECE (New York: Viking, 2013; 300 pp., \$29.95); her memoirs cover both her life and her career as an Emmy award-winning producer (of "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Mystery!"), and her behind-the-scenes stories, Sherlockian and otherwise, are a delight.
568. It's official: the "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (currently at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland) (Oct 13 #7), will open at the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, Ohio, on Feb. 8 and close on Sept. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/k3sapom>.
569. Basil Rathbone often wore an iconic deerstalker as Sherlock Holmes, but not always: he's sometimes seen in a tweed hat (as in "Spider Woman" and other Universal films). That hat (authenticated) was auctioned by Premiere Props on Nov. 23; estimated at \$5,000-\$8,000, and it sold for \$1,000.
570. Phil Attwell reports that the Royal Mail has conducted a survey of possible themes for postage stamps for the next three years, and one of them is "Famous Hoaxes" (with the Cottingley Fairies, the Piltdown Man, and the Loch Ness Monster as examples).
571. Benoit Guilielmo has noted "Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Primary References in the Early Works of P. G. Wodehouse (through 1922)"; it's an interesting survey by John Dawson <www.madameulalie.org/articles/pgwconandoyle.html> of the writings of an author who knew Conan Doyle and greatly admired his work (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian).
572. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KNAVE OF HEARTS, by Steve Hayes and David Whitehead (London: Robert Hale, 2013; 224 pp., £19.99), brings Holmes and Watson to France, solving an intricate mystery that involves Jules Verne and his family, and a dastardly political plot.
573. Peter Melonas offers interesting Sherlockian artwork, by various artists, at <www.fineartamerica.com/art/all/sherlock+holmes/all> (there are nearly 200 images to inspect).
574. "Coin of the Canonical Realm" is a 55-page monograph by Nicholas Utechin, to be published in mid-December by The John H. Watson Society; it's a detailed discussion of Canonical coins and notes (illustrated in full color), and comparisons of "then and now" values. \$9.00 (plus shipping) and there is more information at the society's web-site <www.johnhwatsonociety.com>.
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575. Nov 13 #6: The fanatic completist may (or may not) welcome a report from Mark Hime in Bibliotopos catalog 51 (2013) that the much rarer (earlier?) of two states (issues?) of the first issue of Playboy has page 3 numbered; he's asking only \$9,000 for a presentation copy (with page 3 numbered) sent by Hugh Heffner to John Basil in 1955 from Playboy's editorial file, accompanied by a letter typed by Janet Pilgrim and signed by Heffner. This issue's important to Sherlockian collectors because it contains an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four". Hime also notes that Playboy codified two ideas: "that sex was the poor man's private jet, and that while sexual innocence is enchanting in young people, it's a needless aberration in mature adults." His catalogs are entertaining and instructive, and available at his web-site <www.bibliotopos.com>.
576. The John H. Watson Society has published the first issue of its semi-annual journal "The Watsonian", with 152 pages of comment, commentary, reminiscences, and bibliographic research, and it's an excellent tribute to a man who does not always receive the attention he deserves. Membership in the society (including the journal) costs \$40.00 for two years, and its web-site's at <www.johnhwatsonociety.com>.
577. "The Empty Hearse" (the first episode of the new season of "Sherlock") will be screened at the British Film Institute in London on Dec. 15, and lucky ticket-holders will also be able to see a live Q&A session with some of the actors in the series; tickets to the screening sold out almost instantly, of course. The BBC has not yet announced an air date for the series (as we went to press), but there seems to be a strong possibility that it will be Jan. 1 (well before the U.S. launch on Jan. 19). Needless to say, the Internet will be full of news about "The Empty Hearse" as people tweet live from the screening on Dec. 15, and comment quickly on blogs and such, with or without spoiler alerts. One wonders whether purists will decide to shun the Internet, to avoid reading spoilers, so that they can be surprised when the series actually airs.
578. "A Dickens of a Murder" (an interactive murder-mystery dinner-theater production) takes place after the events of "A Christmas Carol" with Ebenezer Scrooge a changed man, but when he doesn't show up at a Christmas party and is found dead, audience members assist none other than Sherlock Holmes in finding the murderer. The show's performed by Without a Cue Productions at the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, N.J. <www.resortscas.com> and at Fisher's Tudor House in Bensalem, Pa. <www.fisherstudor.com> through Dec. 21.
579. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the fine parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at Playhouse on Park in West Hartford, Conn., Dec. 4-22 <www.playhouseonpark.org>. And at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa, Fla., Jan. 8 to Feb. 2 <www.strazcenter.org>.
580. Next year's "Sherlock Holmes Weekends" in Cape May, N.J., will be on Mar. 14-16 and Nov. 7-9; there will be a mystery to solve, and performances by the East Lynne Theater Company of Gayle Stahlhuth's radio-theater dramatization of "The Copper Beeches" <www.eastlyntheater.org>.
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581. Dec 13 #1: A federal judge has issued a declaratory judgment in Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (Sep 13 #8), ruling that Holmes, Watson, and other story elements that appear in the 50 stories now in the public domain can be used freely by others without permission from the Estate. Story elements that appear only in the ten stories still protected by copyright cannot be used by others without permission. IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, an anthology of new stories edited by Les and Laurie R. King and originally scheduled for publication this year without payment of a licensing fee to the Estate, is now scheduled for 2014. You can read all the details about the lawsuit and the decision at <www.free-sherlock.com>, and there was a story in the N.Y. Times on Dec. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/mmssof9>.
582. More information is available about "Alpine Adventures: Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland", the conference planned by The Reichenbach Irregulars in Davos on Sept. 26-28; they promise a weekend devoted to "an author, a skier, a detective--and a ghost." The society's web-site is at <www.221b.ch>, and the full program for the conference is at <www.tinyurl.com/lzvxxqk>.
583. BelTA (the Belarusian Telegraph Agency) reported (Dec. 3) on plans to build a Sherlock Holmes house in the town of Orsha <www.tinyurl.com/kyydo8h>; the story quotes Oleg Shchukin, director of the company Protege By, which has designed the building and is seeking investors for the project. Alexander Orlov has kindly provided links to the company's web-site <www.protege.by> and to details <www.tinyurl.com/lgnambd>; it's all in Russian, but Google Translate is extremely helpful.
584. It's official: the third season of "Sherlock" will begin on BBC One on Jan. 1, and the announcement was as imaginative as other publicity for the series: tweets to #sherlocklives alerted fans to a handsome black hearse being driven through London with a flower arrangement spelling out "Sherlock" and "01 01 14". The title of the season's first episode is "The Empty Hearse".
585. This is going to create an interesting situation for at least some American viewers: those who don't want spoilers, so that they can be surprised when the series begins on PBS-TV on Jan. 19. Not only will the Internet be full of comment, and perhaps bootleg uploads to YouTube and other web-sites, but there will be Brits at the birthday festivities who will have seen the series, and may or may not kindly refrain from revealing secrets.

586. In the meantime, on Dec. 24 the BBC broadcast a spectacular 7-minute teaser ("Many Happy Returns") for the series (without spoilers); you can watch it at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwntNANJCOE>. And PBS-TV has scheduled a one-hour special "Unlocking Sherlock Holmes" for Jan. 12, offering interviews with writers and actors; if you don't want to wait until Jan. 12, the program is available on-line at <www.video.pbs.org>
587. Admirers of Aunt Clara may be interested in Svend Ranild's Danish translation "Min Tante Claras Meriter" in the latest issue of Sherlockiana (published by the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark), available on request from Svend at <sr@raniid.dk>. There's colorful artwork, and you don't need to worry about learning a new melody.
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588. Dec 13 #2: Compliments to David Milner, who reports in the December issue of The Gaslight Gazette (published by The Survivors of the Gloria Scott) on something new under the sun, so to speak: there actually is a blue garnet, which will be of interest to those who have discussed whether the Blue Carbuncle was a sapphire or a diamond; according to Wikipedia, the blue garnet was first found in the 1990s in Bekily, Madagascar, and is also known in the United States, Russia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Turkey. However: blue garnets seem to be a color-change garnet variety, similar to the beryl variety alexandrite; you can see the wide range in color of blue garnets at <www.tinyurl.com/m7vavhu>.
589. Episodes of the new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series can still be seen (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/ovo9nmv>, and Tina Rhea has noted that the older Livanov/Solomin series (with English subtitles) can be seen on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3d22ahf>.
590. Samantha Wolov spotted "Elementary My Dear Watsonville" (a pizza with red sauce, mozzarella, artichokes, and tomato) offered by Escape from New York Pizza in San Francisco; the restaurant is 90 miles from Watsonville.
591. LitKids offers imaginative literary artwork by Matt Hinrichs, including a portrait of Sherlock Holmes on actual pages from the Canon (\$15.00) <www.tinyurl.com/lpjqpdpj>.
592. Admirers of pastiches surely realize that the Sherlock Holmes stories aren't the only stories to be pastiched. Sebastian Faulks, authorized by the Wodehouse heirs, has written JEEVES AND THE WEDDING BELLS, was favorably reviewed by Christopher Buckley in the N.Y. Times on Dec. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/l5my43>. But Scott Daniels has reported other less favorable reviews, by Isaac Chotiner in the New Republic <www.tinyurl.com/myabna7> and by Alexandra Petri in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/lbt43fy>, neither of the reviews being at all fond of fan fiction, authorized or otherwise.
593. From Stephen Booth's DEAD AND BURIED (2012): "Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had once said: 'All this country is hollow. Could you strike it with some gigantic hammer it would boom like a drum.'" And where will that quote be found?
594. Dan Crowe, when he was editor of the literary magazine Zemblia, asked a series of living authors to interview their dead literary heroes. Ian Rankin, creator of Inspector Rebus, chose Arthur Conan Doyle; the interview, first published in 2004, has now been reprinted in the collection DEAD INTERVIEWS (London: Granta, 2013; 202 pp., £12.99). It's not the first time that Rankin has channeled Conan Doyle, who's featured in Rankin's short story "The Acid Test" in the winter 1998-99 issue of Edit (the University of Edinburgh magazine) <www.tinyurl.com/kjnpf3b>.
595. The fall issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, and about recent additions to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and it's available both at the Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, send a request to <trust221b@gmail.com>.
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596. Dec 13 #3: Further to the item (Oct 13 #4) about the campaign by the South Norwood Tourist Board to arrange for the naming of a local lake in honor of Conan Doyle, Jason E. Cooper has reported that the lake will be (unofficially) named Conan Doyle Lake on Feb. 1 (he hopes to persuade the local council to make things official). He also has launched a fund-raising effort to commission a sculpture of Conan Doyle to be displayed in the center of South Norwood <www.gofundme.com/5en97s>.
597. Oscar Ross reports that his daughters Andrea and Deborah spotted an attractive "Sherlock Chair" offered at Next in Belfast (Next is a chain with many branches in the U.K. and Europe), available in a wide range of fabrics and colors, including Darwin (fabric) and Espresso (color) <www.tinyurl.com/m9g8yfd>.
598. "Wholock: Sherlock Meets the Doctor!" is an imaginative 6-minute crossover video produced by John Smith, who explains his concept as: "Months after an encounter with a mysterious 'Doctor', Sherlock becomes obsessed with discovering more about this impossible man...until the man makes an unexpected return." You can watch it at <www.tinyurl.com/lm3ya9z>, along with a spectacular 5-minute "VFX Breakdown" showing the sort of thing that can be done with modern technology. It has been reported that the BBC was so impressed with the video that they authorized it.
599. "All this country is hollow. Could you strike it with some gigantic hammer it would boom like a drum." It isn't all that often that one finds an author quoting Conan Doyle from something other than the Canon. This quote's from "The Terror of Blue John Gap".
600. Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald" has inspired a board game, designed by Martin Wallace for Treefrog Games (\$75.00/€55.00/£48.00); details at <www.treefroggames.com/a-study-in-emerald>.
601. "The Quiet Man" is one of the 25 films in this year's list of additions to the Library of Congress' National Film Registry (an archive of American motion pictures "earmarked for preservations because of their cultural, historic, or aesthetic significance"). It's a fine film, and it has a remote Sherlockian connection: when the locals arrive at the newlyweds' cottage, they sing "Mush, Mush" (the music's now used by Sherlockians when they sing "We Never Mention Aunt Clara").
602. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times13-12.html>, offering Sherlockian news, commentary, and discussion.
603. Peter O'Toole died on Dec. 14. He began his acting career with the Bristol Old Vic in 1955, played a small part in the television series "The Scarlet Pimpernel" in 1956, and won fame for "Lawrence of Arabia" in 1962, the film for which he won the first of his eight Oscar nominations. In 1963 he was considered by Billy Wilder for the title role in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (eventually released starring Robert Stephens in 1970), and he played Holmes on stage in a touring production of "Dead Eyed Dicks" (1976). He also provided the voice of Holmes in four animations of the long stories (1983), and played Conan Doyle in "FairyTale: A True Story" in 1997.
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604. Dec 13 #4: Further to the report (Mar 11 #2) on the statue of a black swan that adorns Winchester's Black Swan Building Block, the Southern Daily Echo has noted that there's now a polished steel plaque that explains that the building is the site of the Black Swan Hotel, which Holmes and Watson visited in "The Copper Beeches".
605. DEATH BY MISADVENTURE (North Charleston: Beach Reeds, 2013; 136 pp., \$9.99) is a new pastiche by Steve Leadley that involves Holmes and Watson with a mysterious murder, Nicolas Tesla, and Russian anarchists.

606. Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND YOUNG WINSTON series continues; THE GIANT MOLES (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 203 pp., £9.99) has Holmes, Watson, and a precocious 13-year-old Churchill involved in a investigation of missing papers, a mad doctor, and (possibly) giant moles. Hogan's web-site is at <www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk> and the publisher's at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
607. MX Publishing also has launched a new Sherlockian lending library with more than 100 different titles in Watson's Lounge at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street; there's also a bookshop for those who want permanent additions to their shelves.
608. Another interesting video is a "Saturday Night Live" skit "The Robert Goulet Holiday Special" broadcast on Dec. 8, 2001; Jennie Paton has found it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Plm8nO8nVuk>.
609. Warren Dunn, a managing partner of Thomson OPI LLP, is seeking investors in a new project "Sherlock Holmes and the Canary Girls" (initially a play to be produced in English and Mandarin, and then possibly a film or television series); contact Dunn <warren@thomsonopi.com> to request a prospectus and director's statement.
610. The Literary Gift Company <www.literarygiftcompany.com>, spotted by Michele Kaminski has an assortment of appropriate gifts; just search for [sherlock] and [baskervilles] and [conan doyle].
611. J. Randolph Cox still teaches "Sherlock Holmes": one two-hour class a week for eight weeks in January and February at the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium in Northfield, Minn.; he reports that the class filled on the first day of registration.
612. Older collectors will remember Sherlock's Home, Chris Caswell's bookstore in southern California in the 1980s and 1990s; he's now selling old and new items at Etsy <www.etsy.com/shop/aSherlockshome?ref=si_shop>.
613. Chris Gay's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FINAL REVEAL (Manchester: Suesea Press, 2013; 60 pp., \$10.00) is Watson's account of his last meeting with Holmes, and the background to a case that Holmes was never able to solve.
614. "I like artifacts," Glen Miranker told a reporter for Forbes Magazine, and you can see some of those artifacts in the photogallery accompanying an article in Forbes Magazine, including a \$15.00 copy of THE CASE-BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES that he now confesses is "the world's costliest book." You can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/pqypnvh>.
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615. Dec 13 #5: Nancy J. Parra's GLUTEN FOR PUNISHMENT (2013) stars Toni Ryder, "who inherits the family homestead and brings her gluten-free bakery to Oiltop's Main Street only to discover that owning a gluten-free bakery can be murder." It's Sherlockian only in that it's the first in a projected series of Baker's Treat mysteries. The author has a web-site at <www.nancyjparra.com>.
616. BBC Books is continuing its series of tie-in editions of the Canon: THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (introduction by Mark Gatiss) and HIS LAST BOW (introduction by Steven Moffat) with "Sherlock" cover art were published this month (£6.99 each).
617. Tacit Theatre will present a new dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet" by Lila Whelan and Greg Freeman at the Southwark Playhouse in London, Mar. 19 through Apr. 12 <www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk>. Tacit also will provide a series of 20-minute podcasts starting on Jan. 19: the "Sherlock Holmes Series" will offer discussions with Sherlockian experts, and the theater web-site's at <www.tacittheatre.co.uk>.
618. Otto Penzler's THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES (2013) had a brief review in the newspaper insert Parade magazine (Dec. 22), with a link to an on-line version of "The Blue Carbuncle".
619. Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975), now complete through 2013, is now available <judith-freeman@hotmail.com> as an Excel spreadsheet; the ASH web-site at <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse.
620. SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MASTER ENGRAVER, by Ross Husband (Norfolk: Glen Ross Editions, 2013; 449 pp., £11.95/\$16.95), has Holmes and Watson involved in thwarting a thoroughly complicated plot to flood Britain with counterfeit currency printed from the Bank of England's own plates on authentic paper; there's murder and mayhem and atmosphere, and two sample chapters from the next installment in a series with the overall title "The Revival of Sherlock Holmes"
621. "The Case of the Scarlet Membrane" was a skit burlesquing Holmes and Watson broadcast on "Saturday Night Live" on Apr. 8, 1978, starring Michael Palin as Holmes and Dan Aykroyd as Watson. Janice Portante reports that the skit is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/la2lu4s>.
622. Wilfrid de Freitas' new sales-list for material from Don Redmond's collection (with writings on the writings, society publications, and monographs) will be available in January <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.
623. Howard Ostrom's enthusiastic interest in Sherlockian silent films extends far beyond his research into who played the title role in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1905): his interesting (and well illustrated) 20-part essay "Silent Sherlock" is available on-line in the "Original Essays" section of the "Diogenes Club Library" at Ross K. Foad's extensive "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html>. His five-part essay "The Original Baker Street Babes" discusses the many women who have played Holmes and Watson, and have worked as directors and writers.
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624. Dec 13 #6: "Chinese fans go potty for the BBC's Sherlock," according to an article in Radio Times (Dec. 9). After British prime minister David Cameron set up a profile on the Chinese social media site Sina Weibo, the most popular message posted was "Please urge Sherlock crew to be quick! They have had us waiting for two years for every season!" He replied that he couldn't tell the BBC what to do, since it's an independent company, and suggested that "of course people can always go back and read the original Conan Doyle stories, which are wonderful." The Chinese call Benedict Cumberbatch "Curly Fu" (because of his curly hair and a shortening of his name in Chinese) and Martin Freeman "Peanut" (because the Chinese version of his name Hua Sheng" sounds like the Mandarin word for the nut). Thanks to Oscar Ross for spotting and reporting this news.
625. The Feb. 2014 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will be found on newsstands during the birthday celebrations, has Sherlockian artwork on the cover, pastiches by Terence Faherty and Evan Lewis, a birthday tribute by editor Janet Hutchings, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
626. Vinnie Brosnan ("That Gap on the Second Shelf") died on Dec. 28. He issued his first mail-order catalog from "Sherlock in L.A." in 1982, and over many years helped collectors near and far expand their collection. Vinnie began publishing Sherlockiana in 1985, was active in many Sherlockian societies in southern California, and received his quite appropriate Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2011.
627. MORIARTY RETURNS A LETTER (New York: Minotaur, 2013; 262 pp., \$24.99) continues Michael Robertson's series of novels about Reggie Heath, the London barrister who has offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail; this time Reggie and his fiancée Laura Rankin are pursued by a vicious killer, amidst fun and games galore.
628. There were some interesting items in Bonhams' ("What Dreams Are Made Of: A Century of Movie Magic" auction in New York on Nov. 25: the wool tweed suit worn by Richard Greene in the "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) sold for \$1,625 (including the buyer's premium), and the wool tweed jacket worn by Basil Rathbone in the same film sold for \$13,750 (the same jacket went for \$11,685 in 2011, in an auction of Debbie Reynolds')

collection). Someone paid \$461,000 for the 1940 Buick Phaeton that was seen in "Casablanca" (1942), and the star of the sale was an authenticated Maltese Falcon, which sold for \$4,085,000.

629. Lots of theater upcoming in Texas: Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at will be performed at the Dallas Theater Center, Apr. 25 to May 25 <www.dallastheatercenter.org>; Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" at the First United Methodist Church in Dallas, May 16-24 <www.fumcdal.org>; and Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" at Rover Dramawerks in Plano, Sept. 11-27. Plano <www.roverdramawerks.com>

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Jan 14 #1:

1. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 160th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 15 to Jan. 19. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.
 2. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was James O'Brien, author of THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES: CRACKING THE CASE WITH SCIENCE & FORENSICS (2013); the title of his talk was "Reassessing Holmes the Scientist", and you will be able to read his paper in the next issue of The Baker Street Journal.
 3. The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) entertained their audience with a tribute to an aged Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan Whimsey Award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber) honoring the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year; the winners (Susan Rice and Mickey Fromkin) received certificates and shared a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
 4. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where John Linsenmeyer proposed the preprandial first toast to Marilyn Nathan as The Woman. The dinner agenda featured the usual toasts and traditions, and an energetic and amusing debate on whether the Constitution and Buy-Laws of the BSI should be amended (the decision was that the 80-year-old document will serve quite well for another 80 years).
 5. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented the BSI's first Edgar W. Smith Intrepid Irregular Award to Les Klinger; A Tip of the Deerstalker Awards to Andy Peck, Mitch Higurashi, Susan Rice, Don Curtis, and Maggie Schpak; and a Two-Shilling Award to Randall Stock. This year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were presented to Peter McIntyre ("Arthur Cadogan West"), SJ Rozan ("The Imperial Palace of Peking"), Chris Music ("Wagner Night at Covent Garden"), Sonia Fetherston ("The Solitary Cyclist"), Mark Alberstat ("Halifax"), Jacquelynn Morris ("The Lion's Mane"), and Terry Hunt ("The Something Hunt").
 6. An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the agenda included Karen Wilson's parody-song-arama "The Sign of the Sussex Hound in the Cardboard Box", a performance (by Nick Martorelli and Tiffany Knight) of Gayle Lange Puhl's skit "How Much Is That Hound Dog in the Window", and much much more.
 7. Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots.
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8. Jan 14 #2: On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing those who introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Timothy S. Greer; the society has an excellent web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>. And the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured "The Riddle of the Hunted Hound" (a new play by Gayle Lange Puhl, performed by Ken Vogel's hand puppets).
9. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; the entertainment included a performance of a short play written by Jerome Coopersmith, and Anastasia Klimchynskaya was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate accompanied by a check) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets for Maggie Schpak's attractive handcrafted assortment of jewelry and other memorabilia inspired by "The Valley of Fear", and an auction of edible, oenological and artistic donations to the Fund.
 10. The principal Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant.
 11. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 9, 2015. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 17, 2015.
 12. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers.
 13. You can also subscribe at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSI, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
 14. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (by e-mail) his 2014 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 have received Irregular Shillings).
 15. There were, needless to say, a treasure trove of new books available in the dealers room, but you'll need to wait until next month to read reviews. In the meantime you can find many of the books at the web-sites of publishers such as the Baker Street Journal <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and the Gasogene Press <www.wessexpress.com>.
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16. Jan 14 #3: Further to the report (Dec 13 #1) on the decision in Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (Sep 13 #8), the ruling has received lots of publicity in the press and on the Internet. Sutin, Thayer & Browne (the Estate's law firm) has announced that they will appeal the decision to Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals; you can read their press release at <www.tinyurl.com/myqx8wj>.
17. The torrent of stories about the lawsuit included one in the Sunday Express (Jan. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/ntk4jmv>, notable for a colorful (and undated) photograph of Andrea Reynolds Plunket, presumably seen at home in Livingston Manor, N.Y.; Andrea continues to claim control of the characters, despite a series of court rulings against her.

18. "Sherlock Enters Top Baby Name List" was the headline on a story in Radio Times (Dec. 2), spotted by Oscar Ross. The Office for National Statistics has released its lists of baby names in England and Wales in 2012, and yes, Sherlock is on the list, with 5 babies, in a tie for 3,416th place. Harry ranked first (with 7,168 babies), and for girls it was Amelia (with 7,061 babies). One should note that all it took to make the lists was 3 babies with the same name (which does make it a stretch for Radio Times to use the word "top"). You can find the lists at <www.tinyurl.com/k4vykmz>.
19. In plenty of time for Christmas (or any other occasion, for that matter): "Handmade Geeky Goodness!" is the motto of Ursula and Olive, an Etsy shop maintained by Darlene Belisle, who offers Sherlockian (and Doylean) lockets, earring, and magnifying glasses <www.ursulaandolive.etsy.com>. She'll also do custom orders, such as Moriarty or Benedict Cumberbatch.
20. Leonard Cochran ("Cardinal Tosca") died on Mar. 30, 2013. He worked in advertising, served in the Air Force, and in 1956 became a Dominican Friar; he was ordained as a priest in 1962, and went on to a long career in education. He was published in The Baker Street Journal in 1967 and 1972, and was an active members of Hugo's Companions in Chicago; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1973.
21. Chuck Schaden "Speaking of Radio" web-site offers some 200 interviews with the people responsible for radio's "golden age" (and much else that's worth exploring) <www.speakingofradio.com>; one of the interviews (99 minutes) is with Himan Brown, who produced more than 30,000 radio shows over seven decades (including series such as "Inner Sanctum Mysteries", "The Adventures of the Thin Man", and "Bulldog Drummond"). His "CBS Radio Mystery Theater" was launched in 1974 and ran for nine years; it won a Peabody Award, and of course included many Sherlockian and Doylean stories. The series has its own web-site <www.cbsrmt.org> with information about and downloads of the programs.
22. "Holmes & Moriarty" is a 9-page PDF file offered by magician Paul Voodini at <www.readerofminds.co.uk> for £1.50; all you need to perform the trick is a deck of cards and some practice. And learning the patter, of course. Note that the real secret of magic is not what the magician does (you can easily find explanations of this in books and on-line); the real secret is how the magician does the trick, and that includes the story the magician tells, all of which requires imagination and practice.

23. Jan 14 #4: The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State (which commemorates the life and work of Christopher Morley) has published the first issue of its newsletter Hoboken Nights, with 16 pages, a report on the first annual Morley birthday lunch (on May 15, 2013, in New York), toasts, commentary, and photographs. Society membership includes two issues of the newsletter and costs \$15.00 a year per household; Harrison and Linda Hunt (113 North Street, Catskill, NY 12414).
24. This month's trivia question is: what film, now in theaters nationwide, has actors who have played Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Mycroft Holmes?
25. Well, the long wait is over, for all those who wondered about how Sherlock survived the fall, and about how Watson met and married Mary Morstan, and about other things. The BBC blocked access to the series from outside the United Kingdom, but of course there are work-arounds: Hola! <www.hola.org> and TunnelBear <www.tunnelbear.com> work well with most operating systems, come highly recommended, and are free downloads, and of course this sort of thing was quite popular with Yanks who didn't want to wait for the series to air in the U.S. No spoilers here, since some people won't yet have seen the series.
26. The overnight ratings for "The Empty Hearse" in the U.K. were 9.2 million viewers, and a 33.8% share (of those who were watching television); these were highest ratings of any of the seven episodes. Add 3.5 million viewers who watched the episode in the following week after recording it; the 12.7 million total doesn't include people who watched the episode on-line at the BBC web-site. The BBC did a fine job of promoting the new series, and Nick Utechin has reported that The Times gave the debut of "The Empty Hearse" a page-3 news story, a four-star review, a leader [editorial], and an amusing allusion in a political cartoon.
27. Overnight ratings for "His Last Vow" in the U.K. were 8.8 million viewers, and 31.9% share; for "The Empty Hearse" the numbers were 8.8 million viewers and a 32.1% share. The 12-month average for the time slot on BBC-1 was 4.9 million, and a 19.7% share, so both the BBC and the production company obviously are delighted with the audience response to the series.
28. There were all sorts of interesting homages to the Canon in the series, and the producers had some fun with casting: in "The Empty Hearse" there was a scene with Sherlock's parents visiting him, and his parents were played by Benedict Cumberbatch's parents Wanda Ventham and Timothy Carlton. In "His Last Vow" the young Sherlock Holmes was played Louis Moffat, son of series co-creator Steven Moffat.
29. And if you'd like to see more of Appledore (the evil Charles Augustus Magnussen's home), it's really the £30 million Swinhay House, the home of Sir David McMurtry. The Daily Mail had a well-illustrated story (Jan. 14) on the house <www.tinyurl.com/lhtosk9>.
30. As for the future, Steven Moffat has said that he and Mark Gatiss have already planned the future of the series. "We plotted out the whole of series four and five." And they hope that there won't be as long a wait for the fourth season as there was for the third.

31. Jan 14 #5: SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, by Jennifer Adams, illustrated by Alison Oliver (Layton: Gibbs Smith, 2013; 22 pp., \$9.99), is one of the titles in an imaginative BabyLit "Sounds Primer" series that's intended to help parents introduce the concept of sounds to their children. The sounds are for the toddlers, and the "literature" for the parents, by way of keeping them entertained <www.babylit.com>. The artwork's also available on prints and totes, and other authors in the series include Tolstoy, Dickens, Stoker, Melville, and Shakespeare.
32. I asked what film, now in theaters nationwide, has actors who have played Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Mycroft Holmes? "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Smaug, and Martin Freeman as Bilbo Baggins.
33. Ray Betzner's new "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com> is a delightfully lively exploration of Vincent Starrett and his Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian work. Those who visited the Morgan Library's exhibition on "Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul" and viewed the three copies of TAMERLANE AND OTHER POEMS (only 12 copies are known to exist) can learn from Ray about Starrett's connection with one of them.
34. Bob Byrne's "The Solar Pons Gazette" has returned, after a five-year hiatus, at <www.solarpons.com>, offering 44 pages about August Derleth and his delightful homage, which Vincent Starrett once described as "the best substitute for Sherlock Holmes known."
35. There now are 171 scripts available as free downloads from the Radio Script Library of the Generic Radio Workshop <www.genericradio.com>, six from the long-running "Sherlock Holmes" series (1939-1947).
36. Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, return in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's THE SPOOK LIGHTS AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2013; 250 pp., \$24.99), once again accompanied by Sherlock Holmes (or a man who claims to be Holmes), this time as a minor supporting character in an entertaining mystery.
37. The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times14-1.html>, offering Sherlockian news, an explanation of a Sherlockathon, an announcement of the opening on Feb. 8 of the "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" in Columbus, Ohio, after a successful run in Portland, and news that the annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium in Dayton, Ohio, has

- been relaunched by The Agra Treasurers as "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" on Mar. 14-15. More information on the goings-on in Dayton is available from Martin Arbagi, whose e-mail address is <martin.arbagi@gmail.com>.
38. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will run through Sept. 1 in Columbus, and then move to the Saint Louis Science Center in Saint Louis, Mo., from Oct. 9 through Jan. 4. It's scheduled next at the Perot Museum of Science & Nature in Dallas, Texas, opening Feb. 2, 2015, and at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., opening June 11. The exhibition web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>, and the web-site for the Coumbus visit is at <www.cosi.org/exhibits/sherlock>.

 39. Jan 14 #6: I know: I asked what film, now in theaters nationwide, has actors who have played Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Mycroft Holmes, and the answer was ("The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug"). But I didn't identify the actor who has played Mycroft Holmes; it's Stephen Fry, who played the Master of Lake-town (as well as Mycroft in the film "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows").
 40. "Hound of the Baskervilles" is a three-minute band composition written by Mekel Rogers and based on the final chase scene; designed for middle-school bands (because that's when students often read the story), it is available at <www.tinyurl.com/lchkydx>, where you can also listen to the piece.
 41. It didn't take long: the new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series, with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrei Panin as Watson, is being subtitled in English. The first episode ("221B Baker Street"), broadcast in Russia on Nov. 18-19, was uploaded with sub-titles on Jan. 12, and you can watch it at <www.tinyurl.com/p733zry>.
 42. Not for the squeamish: the blog of Barts Pathology Museum, which has an illustrated entry on the effects of wearing Victorian corsets, a discussion of The Death Salon, and much more, including a section on "Barts and Sherlock Holmes" <www.potts-pots.blogspot.co.uk>.
 43. Further to the mention of John Dawson's "Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Primary References in the Early Works of P. G. Wodehouse (through 1922)" (Nov 13 #5), the web-site Madame Eulalie's Rare Plums <www.madameeulalie.org> has a link not only to the article (click on Notes & Lists), but also to text of all of those early works (click on Items by Publication). It's nice indeed to have Wodehouse's pre-1923 writings so readily available.
 44. HOMES AND DR. WILLIAMS, by Roy S. Purcell (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2013; 339 pp., \$26.99), stars Stanley Homes (whose boyhood hero was Sherlock Holmes) and his companion Dr. Williams (a veterinarian). Homes opens a detective agency, with disastrous results, and the book is full of broad (very broad) humor.
 45. Don Hobbs has discovered Novial, an artificial language devised by the Danish linguist Otto Jespersen in 1928. Similar to Esperanto and Ido, Novial seems to have no translations of the Canon, but there is a study guide for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES on-line <www.en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Novial>.
 46. Watson's Tin Box will host the seventh "A Scintillation of Scions" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Hanover, Md., June 6-7. It's an entertaining gathering of local and far-flung Sherlockians, with a fine list of speakers, and details are available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <www.scintillation.org>. The event sold out last year, so you're advised to register sooner rather than later.
 47. "Going Shopping, Honey? Be a Dear and Pick Up My Arsenic." That was the headline on the N.Y. Times preview of "American Experience: The Poisoner's Handbook" (broadcast by PBS-TV on Jan. 7). The program was based on Deborah Blum's book, which was published in 2010 with the imaginative subtitle "Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York".

 48. Jan 14 #7: Jayantika Ganguly describes THE HOLMES SUTRA (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 120 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) as a birthday gift for Sherlock Holmes, and for those who now thinking about the KAMA SUTRA, it should be noted that a sutra is a collection of aphorisms; Jay is general secretary and editor for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India, and she presents 160 aphorisms from the Canon and from other sources, with commentary, and with an imaginative "Holmes Mania Quotient Test".
 49. SHERLOCK HOLMES: STUDIES IN LEGACY, by Luke Benjamin Kuhns (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 247 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95), has four short stories about Holmes and Watson's battle against a mysterious evil organization, and two bonus stories, one of which sets them in pursuit of Frankenstein's monster.
 50. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2013" has the theme "Anniversaries" and the authors range from Randy Cox ("My First Meeting with the Norwegian Explorers") to Dick Caplan ("An Anniversary Theme?") to Ruth Berman ("Sherlockian Governesses"). The 54-page booklet, edited by Timothy Reich, is available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122); the cost is \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
 51. Further to the mention (Dec 13 #5) of the link in Parade magazine to an online version of "The Blue Carbuncle" (on Dec. 22), the link received about 3,000 hits, presumably from people who hadn't read the story before (or had and were happy to have an easy way to read it again).
 52. Otto Penzler has reported Gabe Hasbash's blog at Publishers Weekly (Jan. 8) about "The 9 Best Books That Don't Exist" <www.tinyurl.com/qyo83tp>, one of them being Prof. James Moriarty's THE DYNAMICS OF AN ASTEROID. Wikipedia has an entry for the book, and another for A TREATISE ON THE BINOMIAL THEOREM.
 53. David Greenlee is offering his collection of Sherlockiana (with more than 300 books, booklets, pamphlets, magazines, cassettes, and records) as one lot, and a list is available from him at <sdgcollection@xemaps.com>.
 54. Nicholas Utechin's COIN OF THE CANONICAL REALM is the first monograph from The John H. Watson Society; 50 pages, with an interesting discussion of the Canonical coins and notes and with full-color illustrations, and "then and now" comparisons of values. \$9.00 plus shipping, and you can order at the society's web-site <www.johnhwatsonssociety.com>.
 55. An addendum to the obituary for Peter O'Toole (Dec 13 #3). He was reported to have been considered as a possible Holmes in three films: "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976), and "Murder by Decree" (1979).
 56. Dramatic Publishing offers interesting Sherlockian and Doylean scripts, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles: A Comic Thriller Starring Shirley Holmes and Jennie Watson" (by Kent R. Brown), "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" (by Suzan L. Zeder), "The Sign of the Four" (by Dr. Shanghai Low), "The Very Great Grandson of Sherlock Holmes" (by Bill Majeski), and "The Lost World" (by Nat Segaloff and John de Lancie for "Alien Voices"). 311 Washington Street, Woodstock, IL 60098 <www.dramaticpublishing.com>.

 57. Jan 14 #8 The Times has reported (Dec. 3, 2013) that the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh has received a £2.7 million grant to redevelop its Surgeons' Hall Museum. The displays are to include the letter to Joseph Bell from Conan Doyle in which he wrote that "It is most certainly to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes." And a leather wallet made from the skin of the infamous murderer William Burke (as in Burke and Hare).
 58. News from Laurie R. King, in the latest issue of her newsletter (News and Nonsense), which you can read at <www.tinyurl.com/klescba>. The title of the next Mary Russell novel is DREAMING SPIES; set in Japan and Oxford, it is due in Feb. 2015. Laurie has also published a Kindle edition of her BA

- thesis (FOOLISH WISDOM, 1977) and her MA thesis (FEMININE ASPECTS OF GOD, 1984), with a new introduction (Laurie calls herself a recovering academic, and you can see what she's recovering from); 99¢ at <www.amazon.com>.
59. The BBC now offers a "Sherlock: The Network" iPhone and iPad app, with more than 30 minutes of new video content, games, and a mystery to solve. £2.99 in the U.K. and \$4.99 in the U.S.; details at <www.sherlockthenetwork.com>.
 60. The New York Society Library (at 53 East 79th Street) has an exhibition on "From the Western Front and Beyond: The Writings of World War One" through Nov. 15 that displays books by members of the Wellington House, described as "a secret arm of the British Foreign Office" that included Conan Doyle and 25 other well-known authors "who were recruited to create propaganda on behalf of the Allied forces," according to an article in DNAinfo New York (Jan. 24). "Wellington House" was the informal name of the War Propaganda Bureau.
 61. A. Brad Schwartz's interesting contribution to the blog "Sounding Out!" on Jan. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/lce34zc> discusses and contrasts (with audio) Orson Welles' performances as Holmes and Moriarty, and explores the influences of the Canon on Welles' career.
 62. Some additional news about the BBC series "Sherlock": The Wrap has reported that Benedict Cumberbatch, executive producer Stephen Moffat, and his wife producer Sue Vertue were at the Television Critics Association press tour on Jan. 20. Moffat said that Ben Stephenson, head of drama at the BBC, has commissioned the series for 50 years, and that it will continue "until Benedict gets too famous." Vertue commented that "he gets precious and just doesn't want to do it," and Cumberbatch said that he's not in any danger of burning out in the role, as some of his predecessors had, noting that "I'm younger than any of them were or are."
 63. Welcome to our new postage rates, now 49¢/ounce (domestic) and \$1.15 (international); the old rates were 46¢ (domestic) and \$1.10 (international). The new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version of this newsletter are \$12.50 (domestic) and \$20.50 (international). You're also welcome to read the electronic version without charge (and with illustrations in color and live URLs) at the Red Circle's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo80> or at Willis Frick's Sherlocktron <www.tinyurl.com/kl9gcll>.
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64. Feb 14 #1: A bit more on the birthday festivities: "Baker Street Irregulars Turns 80" was the headline on the story by Peter Cannon's story in Publishers Weekly (Jan. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/lmogj5>. And Amanada Hopluch's story on "Sherlockians Gather as Americans Get the Chance to View the Latest BBC Series" ran in the Guardian (Jan. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/ks5e4bq>.
 65. The title of The Baker Street Journal's 2013 Christmas Annual is "Disaster at the New Century" (it's now in the hands of subscribers to the BSJ, and not otherwise available unless you can find it at eBay or wherever), and it offers the text of Ouida Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes: A New Play in Three Acts" (1953), published for the first time ever, with a fine introduction by Nicholas Utechin. The 2014 Christmas Annual will be Elaine and Jonathan McCafferty's tribute to Douglas Wilmer, also available only to subscribers to the BSJ. \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere) for four issues and the Annual; checks can be sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers; you can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
 66. The latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series is IRREGULAR STAIN, edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg, with a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Second Stain", an annotated transcript, history, commentary, and artwork. The commentary includes Bob Katz's explanation of why Lancaster Avenue is second only to Baker Street in importance for Sherlockians, a facsimile of the only known galleys for a Sherlock Holmes story, and an explanation by John Baesch and William Walsh of their belief that Holmes attended Haverford rather than Oxford or Cambridge. 188 pp., \$39.95; details, including the table of contents and a brief excerpt, are at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/stain.html>.
 67. Also from the BSI is THE REMARKABLE CHARACTERS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Joel M. Silver; it's the proceedings of a conference at the Lilly Library in 2009 that focused almost entirely on Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work, and it's nice indeed to have a chance to read some excellent papers. 138 pp., \$35.00; details at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/characters.html>. The books can also be ordered by mail (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) from Michael H. Kean, 3040 Stoa Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93593; shipping costs for one book are \$5.95 (to the U.S.)/\$22.95 elsewhere, and for two books are \$7.45/\$27.95.
 68. "Oggy et les cafards: Le film" ["Oggy and the Cockroaches: The Film"] is a French animation <www.tinyurl.com/lnl2wx9> that had its premiere in France last year and is scheduled in the U.S. on June 27. Jennie Paton discovered a 26-minute Sherlockian sequence at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ltyb3hq>. If you want to see the entire film, it's at <www.tinyurl.com/kntjau9>.
 69. "Sherlock Holmes Is Alive and Well!" notes a recent blog from the University of Texas <www.tinyurl.com/kp8vcz2>, offering excellent scans of some of the rare items at the Harry Ransom Center. Images of original Sherlockian artwork by Sidney Paget are spectacular, showing how much was lost when the engraving were made. Last year the center launched a new on-line collection that includes Holmes highlights (links are provided in the blog).
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70. Feb 14 #2: Many admirers of Sherlock Holmes also admire Nero Wolfe, whose creator Rex Stout was an excellent writer as well as an enthusiastic Sherlockian; Stout's Nero Wolfe series has been continued by Robert Goldsborough, whose most recent book is MURDER IN THE BALL PARK, just published by the Mysterious Press <www.tinyurl.com/kfwag2d>. There was a long interview with Goldsborough by J. Kingston Pierce at his blog The Rap Sheet on Jan. 21 <www.therapsheet.blogspot.com>.
 71. THE ONE FIXED POINT IN A CHANGING AGE: A NEW GENERATION ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2014; 271 pp. \$24.95) is a resounding refutation of the often-seen lament that a younger generation of Sherlockians has nothing to offer the Sherlockian world beyond youth and enthusiasm; edited by Kristina Manente, Maria Heischhack, Sarah Roy, and Taylor Blumberg, and with an apt introduction by Laurie R. King, the essays collected in the book offer insightful scholarship into the Canon as well as its modern manifestations. It also is interesting to see how many of the sources cited are from Internet archives, blogs, and YouTube; "the times they are a-changin'" for scholars, too.
 72. Also from Gasogene: Ann Margaret Lewis' THE WATSON CHRONICLES: A SHERLOCK HOLMES NOVEL IN STORIES (2014; 283 pp., \$22.95), with six connected stories that begin in 1900 as Holmes contemplates retirement and offer an interesting view of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, and Watson; the stories are told with sentiment and imagination. Gasogene is at Box 63808, Indianapolis, IN 46268 <www.gasogenebooks.com>.
 73. The admirers of the writings of Jules Verne are dedicated indeed: the North American Jules Verne Society <www.najvs.org> is publishing a long series of his books, plays, and articles, many translated into English for the first time. BANDITS & REBELS (Albany: BearManor Fiction, 2013; 214 pp., \$19.95) includes his "The Siege of Rome" (a historical adventure in the tradition of Alexandre Dumas), with series editor Brian Taves' comment that Verne, in 1857, reviewed a painting with that title by Horace Vernet, noted as a relation of Sherlock Holmes.
 74. Conan Doyle also admired Verne's works, and read some of them in French at Stonyhurst at the age of 14, encountering the Nautilus long before he wrote "Danger!" (1914). BANDITS & REBELS also has the first story ("San Carlos") Verne wrote about submarines, long before he wrote TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA.

75. Steve Kious' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CRATER LAKE ADVENTURE (Mechanicsburg: Sunbury Press, 2013; 132 pp., \$9.99) has Holmes and Watson to Paris in 1896 to solve a mystery for Jules Verne, and then Holmes, Watson, and Verne visit Oregon to investigate a mysterious flying machine; lots of local history and geography.
76. One of the nice films screened at the "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" conference at UCLA in 2012 was Eille Norwood's silent "The Sign of Four" (1923); Jennie Paton has reported that you can see some clips from the film at <www.vimeo.com/84890479>. Russ Merritt notes that there also are clips from "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (which suggests that additional films have been found).

77. Feb 14 #3: Maria Konnikova's MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jan 13 #4) has been nominated for an Agatha (best nonfiction) at Malice Domestic. Also nominated in the same category is Daniel Stashower's THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR (Dan has explained that he was not able to persuade his publisher to include a mention of Sherlock Holmes in the book).
78. Benedict Cumberbatch has recorded a segment for "Sesame Street" appearing with his arch-nemesis Murray-arty; there's no word on when the segment will air, but in the meantime you can watch it at <www.youtube.com/pf6gfbk>.
79. Further to the mention (Jan 14 #5) of Bob Byrne's web-site for admirers of Solar Pons <www.solarpons.com>, he also has a mailing list for occasional announcements about Solar Pons; if you'd like to be on his mailing list, he is at <bob@solarpons.com>.
80. The second issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published in January, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with what they describe as "history, mystery, and science," including reviews and an interesting article by Elizabeth T. Gray Jr. (on "A Case of Identity: Holmes and Hafiz"). \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).
81. "Your Friend Elle" has offered some imaginative Sherlock Holmes Party Ideas at her web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lhsz8ks>, with a ReichenBingo Falls game and a cake decorated to match the wallpaper at 221B Baker Street.
82. Terminally cute? Waffles is a ginger cat who has his own web-site and many fans, including someone who has supplied artwork showing Waffles dressed as nine different characters in the "Sherlock" series; you can find "Sherlick Holmews" at <www.tinyurl.com/m3yrlhh>.
83. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE MODERN CINDERELLA, by Thomas Owen (Amazon Digital Services, 2013; 53 pp., \$5.95), presents Holmes and Watson in an Edwardian version of the classic fairy tale.
84. John Aidiniantz, who founded the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Baker Street in 1990, is in the news again: according to the Daily Mail (Jan. 18) he is using money from the Sherlock Holmes Museum in a bid to win a reversal for a convicted murderer <www.tinyurl.com/l6s7qaa>. Last year he was sued by his mother Grace over control of almost £2 million in admission fees from the Museum (Mar 13 #5), but he has now told the paper he had settled the case and is good terms with his mother.
85. When in Houston: there's a new Baker Street Pub & Grill in Cypress (a suburb of Houston) <www.tinyurl.com/mykkboa>, offering 40 taps with about 96 different beers, and a lengthy happy hour.
86. Further to earlier mentions of a Lego minifigure of Sherlock Holmes (Sep 11 #4) and someone's Lego recreation of the sitting-room at 221B (Sep 13 #4), a CNET story (Feb. 4) reports that Lego is considering the possibility of a set of "Sherlock" minifigures as one of six Winter Lego Review qualifiers. And they're colorful indeed <www.tinyurl.com/k3cgdtf>.

87. Feb 14 #4: Phil Attwell has reported some news from a story in Radio Times (Feb. 8) about the magazine's Covers Party: "Doc Martin" stars Caroline Catz and Martin Clunes had a new project to announce: they're making Julian Barnes' book ARTHUR AND GEORGE into a two-parter for ITV, coming out in 2015. None of the other entertainment web-sites have anything about this, but we'll see if anything develops.
88. Kelly Blau spotted a story headlined "His Friends Know Him as Petrowskiconicovick" in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/mlpg8pn> that reports that other Brazilians are oddly named: "A strange name like Sherlock Holmes da Silva, pronounced SHARE-Lockee WHOLE-mess in Brazil, certainly does have a distinctive ring to it."
89. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) honors the Brigadier Gerard, celebrating the Library's acquisition of the manuscript of "The Marriage of the Brigadier" with articles by admirers of one of the most interesting characters created by Sir Arthur. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
90. The 2012 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Roy Pilot (on "The Lost World Revisited"), and his remarks have been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability), or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$25.00 brings three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2013 Memorial Lecture (by Bernard Lightman on "Conan Doyle and the Scientific Naturalists").
91. The Library will celebrate the opening of its new Arthur Conan Doyle Room on May 9, and Lyndsay Faye will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture ("Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator"); details at <www.acdfriends.org/events.htm>.
92. When in Reading: Denny Dobry has for many years welcomed those who want to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street in his home in Reading, Pa. <www.facebook.com/221binReading>, and he is holding an open house on Apr. 26, 1:00 to 6:00 pm. You can contact him to rsvp and to ask for directions <dendobry@ptd.net>.
93. Barbara Hicks died on Sept. 6. She had a long career in supporting roles, and many fans (her obituary in The Times, noted that Mel Brooks considered her the funniest woman he had ever met); she played Emily Garrideb in Granada's "The Mazarin Stone" (1994).
94. Andrew Malec has noted Denis Gohin's splendid archive of illustrations by Frederic Dorr Steele, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, and in full color, on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/lnuolf6>, and that there is additional Steele artwork in the Cabinet of American Illustration at the Library of Congress web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/laua5r5> and at Paul Giambarba's web-site devoted to "100 Years of Illustration and Design" <www.tinyurl.com/l3nsgfx>.

95. Feb 14 #5: Plans to name a South Norwood lake in honor of Conan Doyle (Dec 13 #3) were unofficially successful, with 100 supporters gathering on Feb. 1 for a ceremony that also included enjoy Morris dancing and poetry. The Croydon Council's head of public safety refused to give formal approval, but the South Norwood Tourist Board is nevertheless proud of Lake Conan Doyle.
96. "The Ambience & Residents on Baker Street" will be the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 26-27; details are available from Kent Ross at <kenthross@gmail.com>. The Wigmore Street Post Office will also meet in Chattanooga on Apr. 25; their contact is Dave Milner <dmycroft@bellsouth.net>.
97. Some who visited New York for the birthday festivities were able to see the spectacular "Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul" exhibition at the Morgan Library, where one could view three of the twelve known copies of the first edition of TAMERLANE AND OTHER POEMS, quite likely together for the

- first time since they were printed in 1827. Many items displayed were from the collection of Susan Jaffe Tane, who contributed "A Poe Collector's Memoir" to the catalog; she's a fine writer and an interesting collector, and you can learn more about her at <www.tinyurl.com/mh5fzo7> (click on "biographies" and "exhibition catalog introduction").
98. "Sherlock Holmes Returns from the Dead" was the headline on a France24 story (Jan. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/myy4wpn>, notable for a delightful photograph of Ed Johnson performing as a living statue near King's Cross Station in London. There's video at YouTube of the opening ceremony of the living-statues area in King's Cross Square on Sept. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/ln84785>. Careful readers will recall that the station is mentioned by Sherlock Holmes in the Canon: "King's Cross Station," said he (in "The Missing Three Quarter"). There's another important series of stories that mention King's Cross, where Harry Potter and his friends board the Hogwarts Express, and where fans can now have their pictures taken at Platform 9-¾.
 99. If you're wondering about which king was commemorated at the cross, it was King George IV, whose statue stood from 1830 to 1845 at the crossroads of Gray's Inn Road, Pentonville Road, and New Road (now known as Euston Road). And there are allusions to him in the Canon: he served as the Prince Regent before becoming king and the Regency is mentioned in three stories.
 100. The Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com> offers Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that will introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes; the deadline for grant applications is May 1; details are available at the web-site and from Alan Devitt <adevitt@comcast.net>.
 101. Oscar Ross spotted an article in The Sunday Times (Jan. 26) about a pair of teenage sweethearts who ran away from Stonyhurst College to the Dominican Republic, where they lived off their parents' credit cards until the police traced them to the five-star Punta Cana resort. What's of interest is that Stonyhurst now costs £30,000 a year; Conan Doyle attended the school from 1867 to 1875 (no one seems to know what it cost at that time).
 102. Feb 14 #6: Simon Vance, winner of many awards for his audiobooks, has recorded more than 700 books over the last 20 years, and you can sample some of them at his web-site <www.simonvance.com>; Of particular interest to Sherlockians is his new THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Grand Haven: Brilliance Audio, 2013; 50 CDs, 59 hours, \$99.99). It's unabridged and nicely done indeed: Vance has an excellent voice and pays careful attention to the text and the various characters.
 103. "Baker Street Vienna" is a Sherlock Holmes convention planned for June 14-15 in (of course) Vienna <www.bakerstreetvienna.at>; the convention will be bilingual (German and English), and registration is open now.
 104. The CBS-TV series "Elementary" is about to set some records: when the second season ends, Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu will have played Holmes and Watson 48 times (more than any actors on film and television); Jeremy Brett played Holmes 41 times in the Granada series. "Elementary" also will have aired for 48 hours (another record); the Granada series ran for 46 hours. And it's possible that there's a third record: according to the Hollywood Reporter (Feb. 14), the network will receive about \$3 million per episode from a just-signed agreement that covers cable (WGN America), subscription-video-on-demand (Hulu Plus), and an unnamed broadcast component.
 105. Anthony Hinds died on Sept. 30. He had a long career in the film industry, and made Hammer Studios famous for a series of horror films that often featured Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee; one of them was "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959). Hinds also wrote a three-act dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982), and (as John Elder) the script for "The Masks of Death" (1984).
 106. NPW (the retail division of Natural Products and Worldwide) <www.npw.co.uk> has created an amusing set of "Great Literary Moustaches" (£4.95) that anyone can wear, thanks to the adhesive backing; look for them on-line at Amazon. Conan Doyle is at the right in the second row (and the others are Shakespeare, Kipling, Hemingway, Twain, and Orwell).
 107. Vincent J. Cirillo's interesting discussion of "Arthur Conan Doyle: (1859-1930): Physician During the Typhoid Epidemic in the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902)" in the Journal of Medical Biography (Feb. 2014) covers new ground in Conan Doyle's medical career; copies are available by e-mail from the author <vjcirillo@optonline.net>.
 108. Further to British prime minister David Cameron's discussion of "Sherlock" (Dec 13 #6), The Times reported (Jan. 29) he was interviewed on BBC Radio 2 and said that he had received the boxed DVD set of "Elementary" from Father Christmas. "That was good of Father Christmas," he added, "Good pick."
 109. That earlier item noted that the headline on a story in Radio Times (Dec. 9) read "Chinese fans go potty for the BBC's Sherlock." That seems to be true: according to the Shanghai Daily (Jan. 25), after "The Empty Hearse" debuted on the video web-site Youku.com the program was viewed more than 5 million times in the first two hours. And there now is a cafe named Sherlock on Ruijin Road South in Shanghai.
 110. Feb 14 #7: WHO THINKS EVIL, by Michael Kurland (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 286 pp., \$25.99), is the latest in his delightful series about Professor Moriarty, offering great fun as well as a good story. Sherlock Holmes appears as a supporting character, and so does Mycroft, but as usual it's Moriarty who's responsible for solving the mystery. The author's web-site is at <www.michaelkurland.com>.
 111. The Sherlock Holmes Hospitality Group owns five pubs in Edmonton (Alberta) <www.sherlockshospitality.com>: Duggan's Boundary Pub, the Rose and Crown Pub, and three pubs all called The Sherlock Holmes. Their first Sherlock Holmes pub was opened in 1985.
 112. Laurie King and Dan Stashower discussed "The Enduring Popularity of Sherlock Holmes" on "The Kojo Nnamdi Show" on WAMU-FM on Feb. 13, and you can listen to a podcast (and read a transcript) at <www.tinyurl.com/k8kwp7s>.
 113. Sid Caesar died on Feb. 12. A master of television sketch comedy on "The Admiral Broadway Review" (1949), "Your Show of Shows" (1950-1954), "Caesar's Hour" (1954-1957), and "Sid Caesar Invites You" (1958), he went on to star on stage and screen; he was nominated for an Emmy every year from 1951 to 1958, and won the award twice. There's a report that when Basil Rathbone appeared on "Sid Caesar Invites You", Caesar introduced him as "Sherlock Holmes".
 114. The Lion's Mane is a giant jellyfish, but apparently not as large as it appears in this photograph (the diver can be seen at the left); the photograph was posted by Craig McClain to Deep Sea News <www.deepseanews.com> on Jan. 23, 2012, with his explanation that the Lion's Mane is "really big, just not that big."
 115. Lisa Danielli died on Jan. 24. She made her film debut in "Lilli Marlene" (1951) and went on to a long career with roles that included Queen Elizabeth II in "Princess in Love" (1996). She also played Nancy Barclay in the Granada version of "The Crooked Man" (1984).
 116. A company called Nightlight Designs offers an imaginative Sherlock Holmes Pub Nightlight (\$17.99 with light) <www.tinyurl.com/m5xy7jm>; you can also find it at Amazon.
 117. Jennie Paton spotted an interesting 56-minute video interview with Benedict Cumberbatch at BAFTA New York on Feb. 13 <www.vimeo.com/87020140>; he discusses "Sherlock" and much more. BAFTA is the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, which holds events in New York from time to time.

118. Asked about the future of "Sherlock" in an interview with Assignment X on Jan. 31, co-creator Stephen Moffat said that "I can envision doing it for a while--quite a while." He added that eventually he'll stop doing "Doctor Who" but he imagines that "we'll come back and do 'Sherlock' fairly often for many years, rather than very often for a few years." You can read the entire interview at <www.tinyurl.com/kfwgtcg>. Assignment X also offers an interview with Benedict Cumberbatch on Jan. 24 <www.tinyurl.com/lrts36q>.

119. Feb 14 #8 The Portsmouth City Council has been reported to be considering a proposal to create a £25 million "world-class visitor attraction" in the city. According to the Portsmouth News (Feb. 17), Steve Pitt, of Portsmouth Cultural Partnership, which came up with the idea, said "what we are talking about is a world-class Sherlock Holmes experience." There was a flurry of publicity in the British press, but there was no confirmation of actual planning for the project other than the publicity.
120. Joseph W. Moran ("Sir Augustus Moran, C.B.") died on Feb. 18. Joe was an actuary for the N.Y. Life Insurance Co., a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, and for more than 30 years a member of The Three Garridebs. He delighted in defending the memory of the much maligned Col. Sebastian Moran. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1991.
121. Pop-up books can be delightful works of art, and there is now one that is properly Sherlockian: THE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (San Diego: Canterbury Classics, 2013; 58 pp., \$19.95) is nicely illustrated in full color by Chris Coady and contains two stories ("A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Blue Carbuncle") with eight splendid pop-up creations. Recommended.
122. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ESSENTIAL MYSTERIES IN ONE SITTING, by Jennifer Kasisus (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2013; 207 pp., \$5.95), offers capsule summaries in a miniature edition (2½ by 3 in.) of a dozen Canonical tales, along with descriptions of the characters and settings.
123. Also from the Running Press: Denis O. Smith's THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF THE LOST CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 503 pp., \$13.95), with a dozen nicelyplotted stories (most of them new). There's a British edition from Constable & Robinson (£8.99).
124. Some theater news: L. Don Swartz's new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the Ghostlight Theatre in North Tonawanda, N.Y. through Mar. 9 <www.starrynighttheatre.com>. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is on at the Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples, Fla., through Mar. 16 <www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org>. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" is being produced at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Tex., through Mar. 22 <www.theatresuburbia.org>. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" has been scheduled at the Chatham Playhouse in Chatham, N.J., Mar. 7-22 <www.chathamplayers.org>. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at Loyola University New Orleans, Mar. 14-22 <www.tinyurl.com/l9q5emb>, and his adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be produced in Owasso, Okla., Apr. 10-12 <www.octok.org>.
125. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) will honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Black Labrador in Houston on Apr. 9, when local Sherlockians will have a chance to meet geologists who are in town for the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; if you would like to attend the festivities, just let me know.

126. Mar 14 #1: Sorry about that: it's on May 3 that the Toronto Public Library will celebrate the opening of its new Arthur Conan Doyle Room, with Lyndsay Faye delivering this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture ("Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator"); details can be found at <www.acdfriends.org/events.htm>.
127. The saga continues: the Conan Doyle Estate has filed its appeal against the judge's ruling (Dec 13 #1) that Les Klinger (and everyone else) can use the Sherlock Holmes characters and story elements in the 50 stories now in the public domain without permission from the Estate, arguing that the judge's ruling was erroneous. You can read the Estate's brief (53 pages, plus 35 pages of appendix) at <www.free-sherlock.com>; click on "Court Filings" and then scroll down to the last entry. And yes, it's called a brief (I've no idea how long a document can be before the lawyers no longer are allowed to call it a brief). Les Klinger's brief is due the first week in April, and the Estate gets to file a reply, and Les then files a reply to the reply. Oral arguments may take place in May.
128. Computer games get only passing mentions here, because I don't play them, but Frogwares Studio has a continuing series, the most recent being "Crimes & Punishments: Sherlock Holmes"; you see what they're like at YouTube, because people have made videos walking you through the games; if you'd like to see the previous game in the series, go to <www.youtube.com> and search for [testament of sherlock holmes walkthrough].
129. Having said that, Maureen Mosher recommends a simpler game called "Sherlock Holmes Escape" available (without charge) at Nickelodeon's Addicting Games web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mk82nju>.
130. Tom and Marie O'Day noted a report from Michael Allan Mallory at the DOROTHY-L mailing list linking to Denise Martin's interesting story on "Steven Moffat Explains the Origins Sherlock's Best-Man Speech" on-line in Vulture (Jan. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/knzhy7m>.
131. "The Secrets of Sherlock's Mind Palace" is the title of an interesting discussion by Sarah Zielinski, who suggests that the memory technique was invented by the ancient Greeks; you can read the piece on-line at the Smithsonian magazine web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lrtua6y>.
132. Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the January edition has now with 100 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and bibliographic information; the bibliography on a CD costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.)/\$20.00 (elsewhere), or free to those who report something not already in the bibliography).
133. "Sherlock Holmes Under the Magnifying Glass" is the Smithsonian Associates title for what they call "A Conan Doyle Birthday Celebration" scheduled at the Ripley Center in Washington on May 22. Dan Stashower will discuss both Holmes and Conan Doyle, and Scott Sedar will read from some classic Conan Doyle works. Tickets are available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mkpwof2>.

134. Mar 14 #2: A collection of John Lennon manuscripts will go to auction at Sotheby's in New York on June 4. According to a story in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 25), the material is from the collection of Tom Maschler, who in the 1960s was the literary director of Jonathan Cape, Lennon's publisher in Britain. The highlight of the material is the manuscript of "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield" (a parody that was published in A SPANIARD IN THE WORKS in 1965, and featured Shamrock Wolmbs and Doctored Whopper), with an estimate of \$70,000. And Lennon's original artwork for the illustrations for the story also will be in the sale. You can read the parody on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/7sfdvrl>.
135. Ray Majors has written a new song "The 7% Solution" on an album of the same name, released on Jan. 14 by Angel Air Records as a CD (£9.35/\$18.41) and as an MP3 download. Now in his 5th decade as a guitarist, Majors has survived stage 3 throat cancer, and having experienced the numbing qualities of painkillers during his treatment, recalled Sherlock Holmes' recreational use of cocaine.
136. Wikipedia Portals are useful entry points to Wikipedia content, and there now are 1,132 portals on Wikipedia, one of them Sherlockian; you can find the Holmes Portal at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Sherlock_Holmes>, and it's well worth exploring.
137. The Royal Mail has issued a set of ten stamps honoring the 150th anniversary of Middlesex County Cricket Club; it was in 1877 that Lord's Cricket Ground in St. John's Wood became the club's permanent home ground, and it remains the club's home today. Lord's, of course, has special

- significance for Sherlockians: in 1946 Dorothy L. Sayers wrote (in her Foreword to UNPOPULAR OPINIONS) that "The rule of the game is that it must be played as solemnly as a county cricket match at Lord's." You can see an image of the sheet of stamps at <www.tinyurl.com/kbcdk6q>.
138. "Urlach Holmes" is "the greatest football detective" in an amusing 5-minute segment that aired on Fox Football Daily on Mar. 4, starring Brian Urlacher (who played 13 seasons with the Chicago Bears) <www.tinyurl.com/ljfc3b>. Thanks to Jennie C. Paton, who spotted the video.
139. Ken Lanza spotted a mention of an interesting collectible: "Walther. Carl Walther" is the title of an article by Mark Keefe in the American Rifleman (Oct. 2013) <www.tinyurl.com/mdxx7bq>. According to Keefe, in 1979 a company called Umarex made a blank-firing revolver sold in a book-shaped package with a magnifying glass and paid the Conan Doyle heirs 25¢ for each set sold; according to the Umarex web-site <www.tinyurl.com/l69mwfj>, where you will find an image of the set, it sold at a rate of 80,000 a year.
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140. Mar 14 #3: Readers will have noted that I make use of <www.tinyurl.com> to avoid the long strings of characters (letters and numerals) in URLs. The company uses 33 characters, so there are some 42 billion encoded URLs available; they're not going to run out soon. They're certainly useful: I see that I used 24 of them in the February issue. TinyURL, launched in 2002, was the first company to offer this sort of service, but there are many others in the field now.
141. Further to reports on the film "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" announced by Rocket Pictures some time ago (Mar 12 #6 and Sep 12 #2) as a sequel to their "Gnomeo and Juliet" (2011), the company filed a trademark application for "Sherlock Gnomes" last year, and the Conan Doyle Estate is opposing it.
142. The new film, still "in production," was reported to have Gnomeo and Juliet enlisting the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, when gnomes start disappearing from the suburban gardens of England.
143. Ross Husband died on Jan. 2. His pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MASTER ENGRAVER (Dec 13 #5) was the first of six novels in a planned series titled "The Revival of Sherlock Holmes".
144. The Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> continues to publish plays for production by schools and community theater groups: their first was Tim Kelly's "Sherlock Meets the Phantom" (1975), and their latest is Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" (2012).
145. Playscripts Inc. <www.playscripts.com> offers two scripts: "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" (by Katie Forgette) and "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (adapted by Marcia Milgrom Dodge and Anthony Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel); \$8.99 each.
146. Further to an earlier report of a Sherlock Holmes slot machine (Dec 10 #1), Dan Andriacco has spotted one of the machines at a casino in the U.S.; the machine's made by Aristocrat <www.aristocrat-us.com/#!sherlock/c1102>.
147. The latest Sherlockian audio from Big Finish is a set titled THE ORDEALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, containing four one-hour adventures ("The Guttering Candle", "The Gamekeeper's Folly", "The Bermondsey Cutthroats", and "The Sowers of Despair"); the stories are written by Nicholas Barnes and performed by a cast that includes Nicholas Briggs as Holmes and Richard Earl as Watson. They're nicely done indeed, and are available as 4 CDs (\$48.87) and as a download (\$25.00); P.O. Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England, or <www.bigfinish.com>. The web-site also has downloadable copies of the company's monthly magazine Vortex, as well as information about their other Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian recordings.
148. Peter A. Ruber ("Camden House") died on Mar. 6. He was an executive with the advertising agency Kenyon & Eckhardt in the 1960s, when his enthusiasms included Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, Vincent Starrett, and August Derleth; he edited and published four issues of The Baker Street Gasogene in 1961 and 1962, and continued with a series of pamphlets and books that culminated with THE LAST BOOKMAN, a tribute to Starrett published in 1968. He received his Investiture from Baker Street Irregulars in 1964.
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149. Mar 14 #4: "The Musical Sherlock Holmes: A Bloody Game" was performed at the BBC Theater in Sinsa-dong, Korea, with 36 performances in March, directed by Noh Woo-sung and starring Song Yong-jin and Kim Do-Hyun (alternating as Holmes) and Lee Young-Mi (Jane Watson); you can read about it in the Korea JoongAng Daily <www.tinyurl.com/n77e7hh>. It's the second Sherlock Holmes musical in Korea: "Sherlock Holmes: The Secret of the Anderson Family" was performed in 2011 (Nov 11 #2); there's a 3-minute clip from that show available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/l12bu6y>.
150. Alexander Orlov has noted an entry at KinoPoisk (it's also at the Internet Movie Data Base) about "Sherlock Holmes and the Saint Ax Colossus" (scheduled for 2015; there's little information there other than mentions of the company Adventurous Arts, Doug Elliott (producer), and Aaron Webster (producer and writer), and no information at all found anywhere else.
151. "A Cottage on Dartmoor" (aka "Escape from Dartmoor") is a British 87-minute 1929 silent film notable for some gloomy exteriors shot on Dartmoor; it was spotted by Greg Darak on a DVD issued by Kino International (2007); the DVD also has "Silent Britain" (2006), an 88-minute documentary produced by the British Film Institute for BBC-4. "Silent Britain" is notable for a 2-minute segment about Oswald Stoll and the Eille Norwood films, with a tinted and toned clip from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1921); the BFI owns a copy of the film, but has not released it on cassette or DVD.
152. Larry Millett's latest mystery novel is STRONGWOOD (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014; 265 pp., \$24.95); it's a complicated and interesting story, nicely told with excerpts from newspapers, trial transcripts, diaries, and letters: Addie Strongwood is on trial for murder in 1904, and her lawyer is assisted by Shadwell Rafferty and his friends Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The author's web-site is at <www.larrymillett.com>.
153. It's not Sherlockian, but: "Bees Saal Baad" [Twenty Years After] is an Indian 158-minute film produced by Geetanjali Pictures and released in 1962. It's obvious that Dhruva Chatterjee, who wrote the story, was familiar with THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and you can see for yourself, since the film is available (with subtitles) on a Bollywood Entertainment DVD, and in Hindi only from other companies.
154. The Leeds Teaching Hospitals Charitable Foundation is attempting to set a world record for the largest gathering of people dressed as Sherlock Holmes <www.sherlockworldrecord.com>; the challenge will be held at Temple Newsam in Leeds on Aug. 31 to help raise funds for a new Yorkshire Brain Research Centre, and you can read more about it at their web-site, where you can also enter a raffle to win signed memorabilia from the "Sherlock" television series. Thanks to the Baker Street Babes for the alert; their interesting web-site and podcast can be found at <www.bakerstreetbabes.tumblr.com>.
155. Barry S. Brown's MRS. HUDSON IN THE RING (Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2014; 266 pp., \$22.95), is the third in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series, in which Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case involving old-style boxing, Lillie Langtry, and murder (Mrs. Hudson gets to go undercover, so to speak, as the Jersey Lily's ladies maid).
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156. Mar 14 #5: Steampunk is a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes, and it includes some interesting pastiches: one of them is SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE MAN-MADE VACUUM, by Roy C. Booth and Nicholas Johnson, from the Harren Press (2014; 78 pp., \$5.39), in which a mechanically enhanced Holmes appears with Jack the Ripper and the Baroness von Frankenstein.

157. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ANIMATED COLLECTION, released by Liberation Entertainment in 2007 (\$29.99) is a boxed set of the four animated versions of the long stories that were produced in Australia in the 1980s by Burbank Films, with Peter O'Toole providing the voice of Sherlock Holmes. Slightly cheaper at Amazon, with a chance to save some money on all four DVDs.
158. Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" continues to offer interesting content, including podcasts recorded by Scott and Burt Wolder. Their latest podcast (#62) is "Inside the BSI Weekend" <www.tinyurl.com/p3zoqm6> and it includes interviews with people who attended the birthday festivities in New York, among them Art Levine (who has been attending the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinners since 1954).
159. Vaughn Entwistle's THE REVENANT OF THRAXTON HALL (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 322 pp., \$25.99) is the first novel in his series taken from "the paranormal casebooks of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," and it involves Conan Doyle (who is dealing with readers upset by his decision to kill off Sherlock Holmes) and Oscar Wilde in an investigation of a murder that hasn't yet been committed and that involves Daniel Dunglas Home, and to Society for Psychical Research, some weird goings on in the English countryside. The author has a web-site at <www.vaughnentwistle.com>.
160. "Solves Circus Murder! Who killed Felipe, the Lion Tamer? Even the indefatigable Sherlock Holmes is worn with worry because of the important yet stubborn supernatural clue!" That's the promotion for a Rathbone/Bruce radio program, sponsored by the Petri Wine Company, in a newspaper advertisement possibly published in 1944. But which program was it? Which program involved the murder of Felipe?
161. Now offered at the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kac3ros> is "The Texas Set" (\$185.00); the limited-edition boxed set contains copies of BOHEMIAN SOULS and THE WRONG PASSAGE (about the two manuscripts at the University of Texas) in special bindings, together with a pamphlet with indexes to the two books.
162. Francine Kitts has reported "Sherlock's Great Afghan Adventure Mystery Read & Knit-Along" created by Susan Woodley at Ravelry; it's a year-long project with a different pattern each month inspired by one of the stories, and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/jvu2y72>.
163. The Cedars Spiritualist Church in Ipswich, where Conan Doyle attended seances in the 1920s, was offered at auction on Mar. 5, estimated at £500,000 to £700,000, according to the Daily Mail (Feb. 24); the newspaper story has pictures of the building <www.tinyurl.com/ktgnabf>. The building went unsold at the auction, but was sold afterward for £500,000; you can see more images at the auction-house web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oefmgr6>.

164. Mar 14 #6: Clarissa Dickson Wright died on Mar. 15. She became famous on the irreverent cooking show "Two Fat Ladies" broadcast by the BBC and the Food Network from 1996 to 1999, when her partner Jennifer Paterson died (Aug 99 #3); she also appeared on "Clarissa and the Countryman" from 2000 to 2003, and her BBC News obituary <www.tinyurl.com/mk54l6e>, reported by Scott Monty, included a photograph of her wearing a deerstalker.
165. The Two Fat Ladies enjoyed traveling on a motorcycle and sidecar for their programs. Scott recalls that in the episode "Barristers at Lincoln's Inn" Clarissa said "Turn into Queer Street, Jennifer," to which Jennifer replied "They probably call it Gay Street now." "Not that sort of queer," Clarissa explained, "It's because the bankruptcy courts are here." And that reminded Scott of Lestrade telling a constable (in "The Second Stain") that "It's lucky for you, my man, that nothing is missing, or you would find yourself in Queer Street."
166. "Nothing on Earth Can Hold Houdini" opened at the Axis Theater in New York on Feb. 27, and runs through Apr. 5 <www.axiscompany.org>; it's a new play by Randall Sharp, and stars George Demas (Houdini) and Spencer Aste (Arthur Conan Doyle), and has received favorable reviews in the N.Y. Times (Mar. 7) and elsewhere. Thanks to Ray Betzner for the report.
167. "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" (a new play by Ken Ludwig) is to have its world premiere next year at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., Jan. 16-Feb. 22 <www.arenastage.org> and then moves to the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, N.J., Mar. 10-29 <www.mccarter.org>.
168. Another new play is "Sherlock Holmes & the Ice Palace Murders" (dramatized by Jeffrey Hatcher from the novel by Larry Millett) scheduled for its world premiere at the Park Square Theatre in Minneapolis, June 19-July 19, 2015 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.
169. And there's lots more theater to report: Jerry R. Montoya's comedy "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is being performed by the Children's Theatre of California at the B Street Theater in Sacramento, Calif., through Apr. 13 <www.bstreettheatre.org>. Jahnnna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner's musical "Holmes and Watson Save the Empire" is due at the Evergreen Cultural Centre in Coquitlam, B.C., Apr. 1-5 <www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca>. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore., Apr. 3-13 <www.georgefox.edu>.
170. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" has two productions coming up: at the State Theatre in Bay City, Mich., from Apr. 24 to May 4 <www.baycityplayers.com>, and at the Coronado Playhouse, in Coronado, Calif., Apr. 11-May 18 <www.coronadoplayhouse.com>. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Playhouse in the Park in Cincinnati, Sept. 20-Oct. 12 <www.cincyplay.com>. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" is scheduled at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg, Oct. 1-25 <www.mtc.mb.ca>.
171. "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is a new British play performed by the Chapterhouse Theatre Company; it opens at Lacock Abbey, nr. Chippenham, on June 13 and then tours in Britain and Ireland <www.chapterhouse.org>.

172. Mar 14 #7: Sherlock Holmes is returning to Japanese television, this time as a puppet, and as a 15-year-old high-school student. According to a story in the Japan Times (Mar. 22), Koki Mitani, a popular playwright and director, is preparing a 20-episode series for NHK. Bunta Inone designed the puppets, and there are images and more information on the series at <www.tinyurl.com/p5g5qpm>. The first three shows were broadcast as a preview in March, and the next three will be seen in August; the entire series will air in October. Mitch Higurashi has kindly reported that you can see additional images at <www.nhk.or.jp/sh15>; click on the four blue boxes below the large image.
173. Marlene Aig's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LUFTON LADY (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 95 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) is a welcome reminder of a fine writer who died far too young; set in 1878, it's a tale of a younger and more romantic Holmes, nicely told, and with an appreciative forward by written by Susan Dahlinger. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
174. Also from MX Publishing: Matthew J. Elliott's THE IMMORTALS: AN UNAUTHORIZED GUIDE TO SHERLOCK AND ELEMENTARY (2013; 208 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is an interesting analysis/critique/comparison of the first two seasons of "Sherlock" and the first season of "Elementary"; the author notes that the whole book is a spoiler, and so it is, but it will be enjoyed by those who enjoy the series.
175. And there's more: Stephen Seitz's NEVER MEANT TO BE (2013; 122 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) involves time traveler Cynthia Kenyon, who has a complicated romantic relationship with Watson. IS THAT MY HOLMES? and IS THAT MY WATSON? are amusing rhymed picture books written by Andrew Murray, with artwork by Deakin Brook (2013; 24 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95 each), that are inspired by recent film and television versions of Holmes and Watson. Eddy Webb's WATSON IS NOT AN IDIOT (2013; 201 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is not a rehabilitation of Watson (who doesn't really need one any more), but rather (as it's subtitled) "an opinionated tour of the Sherlock Holmes canon" that offers insights into the stories. Luke

- Benjamin Kuhns' *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HORROR OF FRANKENSTEIN* is a graphic novel with artwork by Marcie Klinger (2013; 32 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$10.95).
176. And Clair Daines' *SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN REGRET* (2013; 242 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) has Holmes and Mary Watson in pursuit of villains led by Col. Moran, who shot and killed Watson at the Reichenbach; the conclusion of the two-part series will be *THE FINAL SOLUTION*. W. P. Lawler's *MYSTERY AT ST. ANDREWS* (2013; 246 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is a reissue of the pastiche published in 2012 (Apr 13 #3); Watson, Holmes, Irene Adler, and much golfing. Andrew Murray's *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES QUIZ BOOK* (2013; 164 pp., £8.99/€10.99/\$12.95) offers 100 10-question quizzes on the Canon, television, and films.
177. Andrew Clark has reported an interesting item from BBC News in Pictures on Feb. 26 <www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-26339275> with a slide show of hybrid images of London street scenes (some of them at Canonical locations). The images are from Museum of London's "Streetmuseum" app, which is explained at <www.tinyurl.com/bvbnfca> and is available at the iPhone App Store.
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178. Mar 14 #8 I suggested earlier that Watson doesn't really need rehabilitation any more. Nigel Bruce wasn't the first or the last actor to portray Watson as "boobus Britannicus" or Holmes' "rather stupid friend" (a phrase that Conan Doyle used in the Fox Movietone film interview (1929) after he had seen earlier Sherlock Holmes films). Younger generations of Sherlockians have been introduced to Watson by actors such as Robert Duval, David Burke, Edward Hardwicke, Jude Law, Martin Freeman, and Lucy Liu, all of whom present a Watson much closer to the Watson found in the Canon.
179. The Huffington Post reported on Mar. 11 that Benedict Cumberbatch would be appearing as a celebrity guest at the Wizard World Minneapolis Comic Con on May 2-4, setting off a flurry of interest and an almost instant denial from the convention. But there are lots of other celebrities appearing at the convention <www.wizardworld.com/home-minneapolis.html>.
180. C. Michael Forsyth's *SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND HARRY HOUDINI IN THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPOOK HOUSE* (Freedom's Hammer, 2014; 173 pp., \$13.46) involves Conan Doyle and Houdini and the medium Eva C. in an investigation of multiple murders and a haunted house in Virginia; Eva Carrière was a prominent spiritualist who was investigated by both Conan Doyle and Houdini, and she has an interesting entry at Wikipedia.
181. One of the nicest things about the Internet is that it makes it possible to offer access to archives; Ted Bergman has done that quite nicely providing access to a wide variety of his work, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, in Swedish and in English <goto.glocalnet.net/tedbe> (there are some excellent photographs of his model of 221B Baker Street).
182. Marc Pastor's *BARCELONA SHADOWS* was first published in Catalan in 2008, and has now been translated into English (London: Pushkin Press, 2014; 265 pp., £12.99/\$18.95); it's fiction, but based on the story of the very real Enriqueta Martí, who was a child murderer, kidnapper, and procurer of children who victimized Barcelona until she was arrested in 1912. It's a gripping novel, often grotesque and chilling, not for the faint of heart; it's also an excellent police procedural, but Sherlockian only because Inspector Moisès Corvo has read about Holmes.
183. The Domino Lady, a masked heroine who first appeared in the May 1936 issue of *Saucy Romantic Adventures*, appeared with Sherlock Holmes in a story by Nancy Holder in Lori Gentile's anthology *DOMINO LADY: SEX AS A WEAPON* (Aug 09 #6); they're together again in a two-issue comic-book mini-series *DOMINO LADY/SHERLOCK HOLMES* from Moonstone Entertainment (2013; \$3.99 each) with artwork by Reno Maniquis <www.moonstonebooks.com>.
184. Moonstone also has published *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CROSSOVER CASEBOOK* (2012; 300 pp., \$18.95); edited by Howard Hopkins, the anthology has 14 pastiches by authors such as Win Scott Eckert, Joe Gentile, Barbara Hambly, Christopher Sequeira, and Martin Powell, involving Holmes with characters who include Lawrence of Arabia, Harry Houdini, Calamity Jane, Arsene Lupin, and Dr. Thorndyke.
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185. Apr 14 #1: The saga continues: Les Klinger filed his brief in opposition to the Conan Doyle Estate's appeal against the ruling (Dec 13 #1) that Les (and everyone else) can use the Sherlock Holmes characters and story elements in the 50 stories that are now in the public domain without getting permission from the Estate, and the Estate has responded; all of the filings are available at Les' web-site <www.free-sherlock.com>; click on "Court Filings" and then scroll down to the last entries. There will be oral arguments in the case in Chicago on May 22.
186. The DFN Charitable Foundation has announced that it has exchanged contracts to purchase Undershaw (the former home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), and will create "the schools at Undershaw" with Undershaw as the upper school and an existing school, Stepping Stones in Hindhead as the junior school; the goal of the schools will be to create a 'gold standard' special-needs school for children and young adults who have mild learning and physical difficulties, and there's more information at <www.dfnfoundation.org>. And there's a 5-minute video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8x0MUAi5cw>.
187. The foundation was established this year by David Forbes-Nixon, co-founder, chairman, and chief executive of Alcentra, a company that works "with investors around the world to help them make the most the market opportunities.
188. Some treasures from the late Norman Nolan's collection will be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 19: the manuscript of "The Adventure of Black Peter", the original artwork for Sidney Paget's illustration showing Holmes and Watson in the railway carriage (in "Silver Blaze"), and a pair of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's surgical scissors. Christie's web-site is at <www.christies.com>; if you'd like to be on their mailing list for an announcement of the auction, you should ask Diane Nolan at <n2913@aol.com>. And Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" report on the items will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/mgwh55r>.
189. The question was: "Who killed Felipe, the Lion Tamer?" (Mar 14 #5), asked in an advertisement for one of the Rathbone/Bruce radio programs. And the answer seems to be: no one. Alexander Orlov has reported that "Under the Big Top" was broadcast on Nov. 6, 1944, and you can listen to the program at <www.tinyurl.com/lc5a4fp>. What's really interesting is that there's no Felipe, the Lion Tamer in the story: victim of the murder is Giselle, the tightrope walker.
190. Caroline Bryan Atkins has found an interesting Sherlockian game available (free) at Google Play <www.tinyurl.com/qb9exsa>; there's a lot more Sherlockian material at the web-site, which is well worth exploring.
191. The Internet reverberated earlier this month with news of new photographs of fairies: the Manchester Evening News reported that Manchester lecturer John Hyatt had photographed what appeared to be fairies in the Rossendale Valley, and that the photographs would be exhibited at the Whitaker Museum in Rossendale <www.tinyurl.com/q58gn86>. The story was published on Apr. 2, which suggests that the announcement was made on Apr. 1. Caveat lector.
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192. Apr 14 #2: Fergus Hume's *THE MYSTERY OF A HANSOM CAB* (1886) isn't at all Sherlockian, but it's an interesting example of a truly popular Victorian mystery novel: it was self-published in Australia by the author, who sold all the rights for £50 and then watched sales rise to a reported 375,000 copies by the end of 1887, when *A STUDY IN SCARLET* made far less of an impression on readers. The State Library of New South Wales is reported to hold

- the only known copy of the first edition. Michael Dirda's perceptive review of a new edition of the book from Text Classics was published last month in the Washington Post last month <www.tinyurl.com/k7zun7j>.
193. The amusing comment that "Though he might be more humble, there's no police like Holmes" is credited to Conan Doyle's brother-in-law E. W. Hornung; but what is the source? When and where did he say or write it?
 194. Mickey Rooney died on Apr. 6. He was born Joe Yule Jr., went on stage as a toddler in his parents' vaudeville act, and made his first appearance in films in at the age of six. The next year, in 1927, he made the first of his Mickey McGuire short films, and took half of his acting name from his role in the series; he went on to a long career as an actor, and never retired. In "Mickey the Detective" (1928) he ran a detective school, planning "to make Sherlock Holmes look like a cross-eyed house detective." You can see the film (in two parts) at <www.youtube.com>, as well as an excerpt from "Mickey's Disguises" (1933), which includes an amusing bit with Sherlockian artwork.
 195. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's web-site has much to offer, including "The Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" <www.sshf.com/encyclopedia> which will reward those who explore it thoroughly. One such item is an entry for "Le Quadrille des Diamants" (a French television program that was broadcast in 1957), with a link to the film at <www.ina.fr>; it's based on Conan Doyle's "The Story of the Jew's Breastplate" and new to Doylean filmography.
 196. The French society also helpfully provides images and transcripts of Conan Doyle's contributions to the N.Y. Times, as well as many other periodicals <www.sshf.com/encyclopedia/index/php/Main_Page>; click on "Periodicals" in the column at the left.
 197. Howard Ostrom's extensive research on "The Original Baker Street Babes" is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/qyooq7g>, offering a survey of women actors, directors, and writers who have been involved in presenting Sherlockian drama, and you can see an interesting four-part video documentary based on his research at <www.tinyurl.com/p6qzw4d>.
 198. Curtis Armstrong continues to appear on television, currently guest-starring as God's scribe Metatron in "Supernatural" (a series broadcast by the CW Television Network series). In the episode "Meta Fiction" (Apr. 15) he quotes from the Canon; the episode may still be available at the web-site for the series <www.cwtv.com/series/supernatural>, and it will surely repeat. Curtis reports that Robbie Thompson (the writer) tweeted during the East Coast feed of the show that he put the quote in because he had heard that Curtis was a Sherlockian. The show wound up seven minutes long, so it had to be cut; he was afraid that Holmes would wind up on the cutting-room floor, and was delighted when he didn't.
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199. Apr 14 #3: The April issue of Laurie R. King's "News and Nonsense" offers news for fans of Mary Russell: THE MARY RUSSELL COMPANION will be published as an e-book in May, there's a Laurie R. King Channel at You-Tube, and you can see an image of the cover of the next Mary Russell novel, DREAMING SPIES. You can read the newsletter at <www.tinyurl.com/l7xdj5r>.
 200. Don Libey reports that last year's 221B Cellars "A Study in Scarlet" vintage is no longer available (unless you know someone who is willing to share a bottle); this year's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" vintage will be ready soon; you can read all about it, and order, at <www.221bcellars.com>.
 201. The Washington Post has held a Peeps Diorama Contest since 2007, and this year's winners can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/mml1bxb>. The St. Paul Pioneer Press, however, has been running a contest since 2003, and this year's winner, accompanied by a story written by Seth Johnson and Candace Okeson, was Sherlockian: "The Adventure of the Speckled Cand(y)". You can read the story, and see the diorama, at <www.tinyurl.com/n3xucq4>.
 202. JEWEL OF THE THAMES: A PORTIA ADAMS ADVENTURE, by Angela Misri (Fierce Ink Press, 2014; 243 pp., \$11.99) is the first of a series featuring a 19-year-old Canadian girl who when her mother dies in the 1930s discovers that she is the granddaughter of Dr. Watson, inherits 221 Baker Street, and acquires a mysterious (and generous) guardian who takes Portia to London, where she studies the journals and books she finds in the house, and shows a talent for detective; it's nicely done, with some interesting twists and turns.
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203. Apr 14 #4: Further to the earlier mention of Baskerville the Hound (Apr 13 #6), there is a nice blog about his debut on "The Muppet Show" on Oct. 18, 1976 (with a link to "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Disappearing Clues") on Scott Monty's web-site "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/nwos386>. Credit where credit is due: Jim Henson (Rowlf) as Sherlock Holmes, and John Loveday (Baskerville the Hound) as Watson.
 204. Dave Thompson's SHERLOCK HOLMES FAQ (Milwaukee: Applause Books, 2014; 283 pp., \$24.99) promises "all that's left to know about the world's greatest private detective," and offers a well-illustrated and sometimes irreverent guide to Conan Doyle, the Canon, selected pastiches, Sherlockian drama, and the world of Sherlock Holmes.
 205. More about Lego minifigures of Sherlock Holmes (Feb 14 #3): Maureen Mosher notes some interesting videos at <www.youtube.com>; just search for [lego sherlock].
 206. Further to the item on the three mysterious metal plates discovered by Javier Doria (May 13 #4), one of them, honoring Sherlock Holmes and the publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, went unsold at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 2, estimated at \$15,000; the plate still is available (for \$9,375), and there are images and a detailed description at <www.tinyurl.com/ow4ejs3>.
 207. PwC (the new brand for PricewaterhouseCoopers) is a professional services and auditing company with headquarters in London; Jennie Paton has spotted their new amusing Sherlockian commercial at <www.vimeo.com/89868475>.
 208. "Here at Oxford University Press we occasionally get the chance to discover a new and exciting piece of literary history," said an announcement on the OUP blog at the beginning of the month. "Never before published, our editorial team has acquired 'The Mystery of the Green Garden,' now believed to be Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's first use of the Sherlock Holmes character in his writing. Written during Doyle's time at Stonyhurst College before entering medical school, the short story displays an early, amateur style of writing not seen in his later published works." You can read the complete announcement at <www.tinyurl.com/nsp35v9>.
 209. J. C. Jones' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES AND COMBUSTION SCIENCE is a splendid example of how much fun experts can have using their expertise to analyze the Canon (and in this case also the Apocrypha and a few pastiches). A few of the pieces in this collection were first published as letters in The Sherlock Holmes Journal, but most of them are new, and all are interesting. For information on how to purchase the book, you can contact the author at <j.c.jones@abdn.ac.uk>.
 210. WATSON AND HOLMES is a new comic-book mini-series created by Brandon Perlow and Paul Mendoza, and written by Karl Bollers; there are six issues so far (\$1.99 each), and a graphic novel WATSON AND HOLMES: A STUDY IN BLACK that combines the first five issues (2013; \$16.99). Holmes and Watson are African Americans living and battling criminals in modern-day Harlem, and the series offers strong and colorful artwork by Rick Leonardi and Larry Stroman; you can see samples at <www.newparadigmstudios.com>.
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211. Apr 14 #5: Steve Moore died on Mar. 16. He was a co-founder of The Fortean Times, and claimed he "was obviously destined to be either a werewolf or a lunatic." He also worked as an editor and a writer, and according to his obituary in The Telegraph (Apr. 13), produced the SHERLOCK HOLMES & DOCTOR WATSON ANNUAL (1979), a tie-in for Sheldon Reynolds' television series starring Geoffrey Whitehead and Donald Pickering.
 212. Still another playscript: John Longenbaugh's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" premiered in Seattle in 2010, and the script is available from the Dramatists Play Service <www.dramatists.com> (\$8.00); the company has published other Sherlockian plays over the years.
 213. "Nevada Barr on Addiction" is an amusing and intriguing (although non-Sherlockian essay at the Mystery Scene web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lr9o4jk>.
 214. No one seems to be able to identify the source of E. W. Hornung's "Though he might be more humble, there's no police like Holmes," but we have it on good authority that the comment was Hornung's: Dan Stashower reports that Conan Doyle (in the chapter "Some Notable People" in his autobiography MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES) quotes Hornung's "criticism upon my Sherlock Holmes." Conan Doyle also describes Hornung as "a Dr. Johnson without the learning but with a finer wit," and added that "No one could say a neater thing, and his writings, good as they are, never adequately represented the powers of the man, nor the quickness of his brain."
 215. The 55th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze (the world's oldest and still-active annual Sherlockian horse race) will be held on Oct. 18 at the Hawthorne Race Course; if you'd like to attend the festivities, details are available from Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
 216. Tony Gray died on Apr. 14. A member of what the Telegraph called "the most famous trio of musical clowns in London" in the 1950s and 1960s, he and his partners were credited with inspiring Monty Python. He also acted in films and television, appearing (according to the Telegraph obituary) in an uncredited walk-on role in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
 217. Ray Celestin's THE AXEMAN'S JAZZ (London: Mantle, 2014; 426 pp., £19.66) is set in New Orleans in 1919, when Ida Davis (a fledgling Pinkerton employee who's a fan of Sherlock Holmes), young Lewis Armstrong (still on his way to becoming a famous musician), and a vivid cast of characters all are in pursuit of a fiendish serial killer in a city described with a fine sense of place and time.
 218. For readers in Maryland (and for the amusement of readers elsewhere): this year's "Search for Unclaimed Property" features Sherlock Franchot in print and at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/nrkafv4>. Peter V. Franchot is the Comptroller of Maryland.
 219. Rick Etchells' FINDING SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA is an e-book travel guide to the United States, offering a state-by-state guide to Holmes-named cities and places, bookstore, societies, and much more, available for \$3.95 at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/kgghpa46>, where you can review the opening pages, which will take you through Arkansas and into California.
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220. Apr 14 #6: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BLACK WIDOWER, by Keiran McMullan (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 189 pp., \$16.95) offers an interesting approach to the Canon: Holmes, in 1908, investigates the deaths of Watson's three wives, hoping to prove his friend is not a murderer. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>. THE WIDOW OF DARTMOOR, by Warwick Downing (2014; 234 pp., \$16.95), is an imaginative courtroom drama: the Widow of Dartmoor is Beryl Stapleton, who now is the wife of a nobleman and on trial for murdering Prof. Christian Vandeleur; her barrister's Jeremy Holmes, the nephew of Sherlock Holmes, and the story is full of twists, turns, and surprises.
 221. Also from MX Publishing: P. James Macaluso Jr. has used Legos to illustrate A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA, THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE, and A CASE OF IDENTITY in full color (each \$9.95); it's an imaginative concept, and done well. David Marcum's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A QUANTITY OF DEBT (2013; 183 pp., \$19.95) is a novel-length addition to his earlier short stories in THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Aug 13 #7); Holmes and Watson investigate (and succeed in solving) a 50-year-old murder.
 222. And there's more: John Worth's THE MAKING OF A MAN (2013; 249 pp., \$16.95) echoes both Dickens and the Canon, offering the story of how young Shiloh Coombs survives the squalor and perils of the East End to become Sherlock Holmes. Peter A. Andersson's THE COTSWOLDS WEREWOLF AND OTHER STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 214 pp., \$16.95) presents one long pastiche and four short ones, set in the country and in London. Fiona James-Brown's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE AFFAIR OF THE CONTENTIOUS CONTRALTO (94 pp., \$10.95) is set in 1910, when Holmes and Watson attend Irene Adler's final performance and meet her daughter Sophie, solving a terrible murder.
 223. The Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Fla., which is devoted to the philosophy and art of Salvador Dali, offers lectures called "Coffee with a Curator". On May 7 the curator will be Elise Trucks, speaking about "Dali, Freud, & Sherlock Holmes"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/mummzgx>.
 224. Alexander Orlov has reported from Russia on what is perhaps the strangest sort-of-Sherlockian film ever produced: "Selden: Deep in the Grimpen Mire" (2010). There's some comment (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/m9xop4e> and a trailer made in 2008 at <www.tinyurl.com/mdzrovr>, and Bill Barnes found the complete film (66 minutes) at <www.tinyurl.com/n4narya>. Described as a "bio-pic" of Selden, it's notable for showing a lot of Selden but not the Hound, nor Holmes or anyone else from the Canon other than (in a very brief glimpse) Barrymore. It's an amateur film, directed by Dmitry Lesnikov and starring Maxim Sveshnikov as Selden, it was uploaded to YouTube on Jan. 16, 2012.
 225. Marsha Pollak reports The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will meet on June 30, during the annual conference of the ALA, this year in Las Vegas, with Laurie R. King as the guest speaker. Marsha will be delighted to provide more information <mlpollak@earthlink.net>.
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226. May 14 #1: The saga continues: the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on May 22 (by interesting coincidence, Conan Doyle's birthday), in Leslie S. Klinger (Plaintiff-Appellee) vs. Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. (Defendant-Appellant); the judges were Richard Posner, Joel Martin Flaum, and Daniel Anthony Mannion and each side was allowed 15 minutes in which to present and defend their arguments. You can listen to the arguments at the court web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ogswbd6>, and you can read comments by Brenda Rossini (who attended the proceedings) at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/ptf4yqu>. There's no predicting how long it will take for the court to render its decision in the case.
 227. It was interesting to hear Judge Posner ask Les Klinger's attorney Jonathan Kirsch whether Les was "the author of the annotated volumes," because Posner reviewed THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES for The New Republic (Oct. 11, 2004), and offered a decidedly unfavorable opinion of the scholarship and pseudo-scholarship detailed in the annotations.
 228. Congratulations to Daniel Stashower, who makes it look easy. This month he won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar (best fact crime) and Malice Domestic's Agatha (best non-fiction work) for THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR. Dan also won an Edgar and an Agatha in 2008 for ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, and in 2000 for TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE; it's rare for an author to win more than one award the same year. Ever rarer is a hat trick: Dan also won an Anthony at Bouchercon in 2008.
 229. Sorry about that: material from Norman Nolan's collection (Apr 14 #1) will be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 19 (which gives you more time to get ready to bid). Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" report on the items will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/mgwh55r>, where you can see just how spectacular Sidney Paget's original artwork is (the engraved versions in The Strand Magazine are nowhere near as nice).

230. The Wessex Press has announced that Mark Gatiss will be a special guest at "From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond" at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 12-14, 2014. Steve Doyle and Mark Gagen have attracted enthusiastic audiences for their past three conferences, and registration is now open <www.wessexpress.com>. Fans of the BBC series "Sherlock" will know that Gatiss has series credits as co-creator, producer, actor, and writer. Other special guests are Paul Annett, first director of the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series, and Michael Hoey, son and biographer of Dennis Hoey, who played Lestrade in the Rathbone/Bruce films.
231. Aziz Bin Adam has discovered the British Library's English and Drama blog, with an entry on "The Spirit Voice of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" and links to the recording Conan Doyle made in 1930 for His Master's Voice, and to the recording made in 1934 during a seance at the Aeolian Hall; you can listen to both recordings at <www.tinyurl.com/on5k32l>. BBC Radio 4 broadcast a 30-minute program ("What Grandad Did in the Dark") on Jan. 4, 2002, and you can listen to the program at <www.tinyurl.com/ng6a9p9> (but the Conan Doyle recording isn't included in the program).
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232. May 14 #2: LADIES, LADIES: THE WOMEN IN THE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Patricia Guy and Katherine Karlson (Sep 07 #3), is now available from Amazon as an e-book (\$2.99) <www.tinyurl.com/m5sr4ko>; it's intriguing anthology of essays, poems, music-hall songs that mention Sherlock Holmes (and some that don't), by way of examining "topics ranging from libations to libido, perfumes to prejudice, in the context of the Sherlock Holmes stories."
233. <www.somethingisgoingto happen.net> is a blog started in May 2012 by Janet Hutchings, editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and it is full of interesting posts by Janet and other EQMM authors. Needless to say, some of the posts are Sherlockian, and they're easy to find by searching the blog for [sherlock] and [conan doyle]. Kenneth Wishnia has written a two-part piece about "Conan Doyle's Sly Subversion of English Society", and in March Dana Cameron contributed "Solving for Sherlock Holmes" (she was preparing for a panel on "Sherlock Holmes and TV" at Boskone, and starting to write a Sherlockian pastiche).
234. If you've never heard of Boskone, it's the longest-running science-fiction convention in New England; it attracts more than a thousand fans and professionals, and this year's was its 52nd gathering. Science-fiction fans have been convening far longer than mystery fans, by the way: Worldcon (the World Science Fiction Convention) was launched in 1939, and the first Bouchercon was held in 1970.
235. Charles A. Adams ("The Winter Assizes at Norwich") died on May 18. Charlie taught English literature at Norwich Free Academy in Connecticut for almost 40 years; he was a long-time member of The Men on the Tor, founded and led The Winter Assizes at Norwich, and he received that as his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1990.
236. SHERLOCK: EVERY CANON REFERENCE YOU MAY HAVE MISSED IN BBC'S SERIES 1-3, by Valerie Estelle Frankel (Sunnyvale: LitCrit Press, 2014; 196 pp., \$9.99), is a detailed exploration of "Sherlock" (all nine episodes and the mini-episode), discussion allusions to and echoes of not only the Canon but also other films and television series, accompanied by commentary by Mark Gatiss in print and on DVDs. The author's web-site's at <www.vefrankel.com>.
237. The attractive young lady is 23-year-old Rebecca Case, and her costume consists entirely of body paint, the handiwork of an artist known as Pashur, according to an article in LA Weekly (May 22); she is part of a triptych, with Watson and a foggy London night on the backs of two other girls (not photographed for the article) available at <www.tinyurl.com/pt96lts>. You can see more of Pashur's work at <www.canvasalive.com>.
238. Nicholas Utechin's "OCCASIONALLY TO EMBELLISH" (Jan 13 #3) has won the Tony & Freda Howlett Literary Award, which is awarded by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London for the best piece of Holmesiana published in the preceding year; it's a collection of reprints of some of his literate and often humorous scholarship, with new postscripts to many of the pieces, and it is still available from the Gasogene Press (\$18.95) <www.wessexpress.com>.
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239. May 14 #3: Alexander Orlov has reported two Canonical stories translated into Lidepla (Lingwa de Planeta). Lidepla is a worldlang (international auxiliary language), and you can read both stories on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/kdydb53> and <www.tinyurl.com/la7lrsg>. There's more information about Lingwa de Planeta at <www.lingwadeplaneta.info>.
240. And Don Hobbs found Dave Mcleod, who has translated part of "A Scandal in Bohemia" into Occidental <www.page30.com/search/label/Sherlock%20Holmes>.
241. Ian Schoenherr has responded to my query about E. W. Hornung's "Though he might be more humble, there's no police like Holmes" (Apr 14 #5), noting a stanza in Harry Graham's poem "The Policeman" in FAMILIAR FACES (1907):
- He may not be as bright, forsooth,
As Dr. Watson's famous foil,—Sherlock, that keen unerring sleuth
Immortalised by Doyle,
And Patti who, where'er she roams,
Asserts "There's no Police like Holmes!"
242. Harry Graham also wrote a long poem "Sherlock Holmes" in MORE REPRESENTATIVE MEN (1905). Both poems can be read on-line at Project Gutenberg. Ian also discovered Ogden Nash's "Macbeth Has Murdered Sleep? or Don't Make Me Laugh" (1933), which ends with the quatrain:
- I've watched with fascinated eyes
Detectives fall, detectives rise,
And racing through a thousand tomes,
Reflect, There's no police like Holmes."
243. Nash's poem was published in the N.Y. Herald Tribune (July 16, 1933) and in HAPPY DAYS (1933). The complete poem's at <www.tinyurl.com/lwxj8v>. Ian also is enthusiastic about Howard Pyle, and has blogged about Pyle and Conan Doyle at <www.tinyurl.com/m985796>, and about his interest in Sherlock Holmes at <www.tinyurl.com/kkhlcu>.
244. "When Arthur Conan Doyle tried to kill off Sherlock Holmes in 1893," Gregory Cowles wrote in the N.Y. Times Book Review (May 25), "readers objected so strenuously that Doyle--after trying to mollify them with a prequel--finally gave in and resurrected the character as a cross-dressing mixed martial artist played by Robert Downey Jr."
245. ITV has commissioned a three-part dramatization of Julian Barnes' novel ARTHUR & GEORGE about Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji (Sep 05 #5); Conan Doyle will be played by Martin Clunes (star of the "Doc Martin" series) and the script will be written by Ed Whitmore ("Silent Witness" and "Waking the Dead"). Production is set to begin this fall.

246. There's now a Dancing Men Brewery in Happisburgh (where Conan Doyle was inspired to write "The Dancing Men") and needless to say there's web-site at <www.dancingmenbrewery.co.uk> with an amusing video (click on "Follow the Dancing Man"); the brewery is located at the Hill House Inn (formerly Hill House, where Conan Doyle stayed with the Cubitt family in 1905).
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247. May 14 #4: Ruth Voboril is a fine example of what can happen when one becomes an enthusiast: not old enough (as some of us are) to have watched the original broadcasts of Ronald Howard's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" in 1954, she found the series (thanks to the wonders of DVD), and after much work has created an excellent web-site devoted to Howard's life and career <www.sherlockhoward.homestead.com>.
248. Francis M. Nevins' ELLERY QUEEN: THE ART OF DETECTION (Baltimore: Perfect Crime Books, 2013; 362 pp., \$19.95) is described on the cover as "the story of how two fractious cousins reshaped the modern detective novel," and it's that and much more. "Ellery Queen" was the pseudonym adopted by Frederic Dannay and Manfred B. Lee, and the name of their detective, but Dannay and Lee were far more than authors of books, short stories, and radio scripts; they edited classic anthologies, and Dannay, an inspired collector, was the founder and first editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (and a member of The Baker Street Irregulars). Nevins' book is a thorough biography, and includes detailed discussion of their books, stories, and scripts.
249. If you're wondering about the "fractious" in the description of the relationship between Dannay and Lee, it's a mild adjective when one is able to take a closer look at the conflicts between the two authors. You get that closer look in BLOOD RELATIONS, also published by Perfect Crime (2012, 150 pp., \$14.95); edited by Joseph Goodrich, it's a selection of their letters to each other from 1947 to 1950, offering a fascinating at how they created excellent work in the midst of mutual conflict. The publisher's web-site is at <www.perfectcrimebooks.com>.
250. Richard L. Kellogg's BARRY BASKERVILLE RETURNS (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2014; 34 pp., \$10.99) is his latest entertaining story for young readers, attractively illustrated by Gary Kato; Barry wants to be a detective, and (of course) succeeds in solving a case.
251. "The Many Lives of Sherlock Holmes" is a session scheduled at DashCon, in Schaumburg, Ill., on July 11-13; Schaumburg is near Chicago, and they are expecting more than 3,000 people at the convention (which is billed as "For Tumblr Users, by Tumbler Users"); three of the Baker Street Babes will be on hand, and there's more information at <www.dashcon.org>.
252. "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" is the title of the Museum of London's major exhibition, opening on Oct. 14 and closing on Apr. 12, 2015. The official announcement on May 20 gathered lots of publicity in the press, and the exhibition's web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/mp263ux>. They are seeking patrons for the exhibition, and you can read about that at <www.tinyurl.com/mptwx7v>. Exhibition visitors will see the Sidney Paget portrait of Conan Doyle (1897), the manuscript of "The Empty House", and much more.
253. Further to the report (Mar 14 #7) about Koki Mitani's 20-episode Japanese television puppet series, Mitch Higurashi reports that the first three programs will be released on DVD on July 16. There's an announcement (in Japanese) at <www.dogpatch.jp/smph/news/nhk/25140>; it's helpful, of course, to have Google Translate installed on your computer.
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254. May 14 #5: The spring issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, and about recent additions to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and it is available both at the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, send a request to Mike Berdan at <editor@bsitrust.org>.
255. Charles Marowitz died on May 2. He directed and wrote plays, led theater companies, and was a drama critic and an author of books about acting theory. Using the pseudonym Matthew Lang he wrote a one-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" (which was based on the Basil Rathbone-Nigel Bruce films rather than the Canon, which he admitted he never read before writing his play), first performed in London in 1974. Then using his own name he added a second act to the play; the new version was first performed in Los Angeles in 1984 and in Washington and New York in 1987 with Frank Langella and Donal Donnelly as Holmes and Watson). Spoiler alert: Holmes turns up in the second act as a Holmes imposter, and Langella appeared disguised as Tom Baker as Holmes in the BBC's 1984 production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"; non-Sherlockians who attended the play understandably were puzzled by the reaction from Sherlockians who recognized the echo.
256. "I was obsessed with Sherlock Holmes as a young kid," said Laura Linney, in an interview in the Guardian (May 8). "You know how some people are into Dungeons and Dragons? I was into Sherlock Holmes. I loved the atmosphere of the stories. I loved the intrigue, his personality." She'll play Mrs. Munro, Sherlock Holmes' housekeeper in the film based on Mitch Cullen's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (with Ian McKellen as Holmes).
257. The National Literacy Trust is working with Wild in Art on a "Books About Town" project planned to create trails of benches shaped as open books in London. The Sherlock Holmes BookBench was designed by Valerie Osment and is now in production, sponsored by the Conan Doyle Estate, and at the end of the summer all of the benches will be auctioned to raise funds for the Trust. There's a project web-site at <www.booksabouttown.org.uk>.
258. Don Hobbs was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog ("Sherlock Holmes in Translation" is episode 64), and you can hear the 72-minute interview at <www.tinyurl.com/kdtfsdc>. Scott and Burt also have a colorfully-illustrated report on "Bow Ties for Sherlock Holmes Fans" <www.tinyurl.com/knpoccc> showing some of the offerings by Beau Ties of Ltd. of Vermont.
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259. May 14 #6: Steimatsky (Israel's largest bookstore chain) continues to run imaginative Sherlockian advertisements (Aug 13 #2), and their latest can be seen at the Mediabistro web-site <www.tinyurl.com/numsmjf>. Scott Monty was reminded of a different artistic advertising campaign from Colsubsidio Libraries, which he reported on at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/mw97r7q> on Apr. 13, 2012.
260. Charlton Heston (1923-2008), added this year to the "Legends of Hollywood" series, played Sherlock Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" on stage (1980) and television (1991).
261. Sublibrarian A. Davenport Lomax, a friend of Dr. Watson, consults Sherlock Holmes about a rare (and dangerous) volume in Lyndsay Faye's THE GOSPEL OF SHEBA, the latest in the series of short bibliomysteries published by Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop <www.tinyurl.com/m6rxzb>; it's an imaginative pastiche, nicely written and with occasional touches of romance, available in a limited signed and hard-bound edition (\$100.00 or \$50.00) and a paperback edition (\$4.95), and (eventually) as an e-book.
262. Ron Brackin's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEADLY ILLUSION (Little Elm: Weller & Bunsby, 2013; 106 pp. \$9.99) has Holmes and Watson, assisted by Charles Hodgson, investigating robbery and murder, and encountering the magician John Neville Maskelynn and Jules Verne. The author's web-site is at <www.ronbrackin.com>.
263. The John H. Watson Society has published the second issue of its semi-annual journal "The Watsonian", with 173 pages of scholarship, puzzles, commentary, and other research by its members. There's more information about the society, and it's journal, at <www.johnwatsonsociety.com>.
264. Angela Buckley's THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN STORY OF JEROME CAMINADA (Barnesley: Pen & Sword, 2014; 157 pp., \$34.95) is the biography of a Manchester policeman who began his career as a police constable in 1868 and had risen to the rank of superintendent of the city's police force when he retired in 1899 and became a private detective. Two volumes of his memoirs were published as TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF

- DETECTIVE LIFE in 1895 and 1901, and was widely celebrated in the local press, so his story's hardly hidden, but he was a dedicated and skilled police officer, and his story offers a vivid picture of what life was like in Manchester in the Sherlockian era.
265. "Plunging into 'the Full Tide of Human Existence': The Charing Cross Neighborhood in the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" is the latest of seven interesting scholarly papers Leslie Katz has posted to the Social Science Research Network, and you can find them all at <www.tinyurl.com/m7k8fsu>.
266. Alexander Orlov has noted <www.aparchive.com>, the film and video archive of the Associated Press, where you can easily search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] and find "Holmes Lives Again", a British Movietone Newsreel (Jan. 8, 1953) showing Carlton Hobbs in costume as Sherlock Holmes unveiling the plaque at the Criterion. You can rank search results by "relevance" or "newest first" or "oldest first" (the most interesting ranking), And wait hopefully for more material to be digitized.
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267. May 14 #7: Brian W. Pugh continues to revise his A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Mar 13 #6); the third edition (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 303 pp., \$24.95) delightful and valuable as a resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle. The chronology starts in 1755 (the birth of James Doyle) and ends in 1998 (the memorial service for Dame Jean), and there are splendid photographs (old and new), a list of statues and plaques around the world, a new section detailing his Arctic voyage in 1880, careful citations of sources, and much more. The publisher's colorful web-sites can be found at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
268. Also from MX: Diane Gilbert Madsen's THE CONAN DOYLE NOTES: THE SECRET OF JACK THE RIPPER (2014; 346 pp., \$28.95) is the latest in her series featuring insurance investigator DD McGill, this time involved in a hunt for the manuscript of THE WHITE COMPANY, in which Conan Doyle accidentally inserted his notes about his (and Dr. Joseph Bell's) identification of the Ripper; one of the characters is Chicago rare-book dealer Tom Joyce (conveniently echoing the real Chicago rare-book dealer Thomas J. Joyce), and many others have names taken from the Sherlock Holmes stories. The author has a web-site at <www.dianegilbertmadsen.com>.
269. And there's more: Phil Growick's THE REVENGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 294 pp., \$8.95) is a sequel to THE SECRET JOURNAL OF DOCTOR WATSON; Holmes encounters the Romanovs, the Mafia, Sidney Reilly, David Lloyd George, Doug Fairbanks, and Mary Pickford. John A. Little's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MUSICAL MURDERS (2014; 149 pp., \$11.95) is set in 1925, with Holmes and Watson back in practice, assisted by the next generation (Jasper Lestrade and Lily Hudson), and in pursuit of a bizarre serial murderer connected to the Bloomsbury Group ("musical" being urban slang for "homosexual"). THE POISONED PENMAN, by Dan Andriacco and Kieran McMullen (2014; 172 pp., \$11.95), is a sequel to their THE AMATEUR EXECUTIONER (Sep 13 #6); it's 1922 in London, and Enoch Hale and Dorothy L. Sayers are pursue the murderer of Langdale Pike (again, Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes are involved in the mystery).
270. And still more: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY OF EINSTEIN'S DAUGHTER, by Tim Symonds (2014; 193 pp., \$14.95) takes Holmes and Watson to the Balkans to investigate persistent rumors that Albert Einstein had an illegitimate daughter Lieserl. Dean P. Turnbloom's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BODY SNATCHERS (2014; 322 pp., \$18.95) is a sequel to his earlier SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE WHITECHAPEL VAMPIRE (Apr 12 #7); this time the vampire's in New York, pursued by local detectives, and of course by Holmes and Watson. John Heywood's THE INVESTIGATIONS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 201 pp., \$14.95) offers six short pastiches set both in London and the countryside.
271. Dan Andriacco has written four books about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, the latest being THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES PHILLIMORE (Sep 13 #6), and he now has added a short story ("The Revengers") that's available (free) as a Kindle e-book at <www.amazon.com> and in other formats if you join MX's Sherlock Holmes Books newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/k6lrz62>. Dan's entertaining (and Sherlockian) blog is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.
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272. Jun 14 #1: The saga continues: the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals has issued its final judgment in the Conan Doyle Estate's appeal of the lower-court decision in Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Estate: Judge Castillo ruled in favor of Les, and the Appeals Court affirmed the ruling, also awarding costs, which Les will now be able to recover from the Estate. All the filings and decisions are available at Les' web-site <www.free-sherlock.com>; just click on "Court Filings" to find earlier documents in the case. The Estate also has commented on the judgment in a press release at <www.tinyurl.com/nf4eldo>, saying that the Estate is considering an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.
273. "Sherlock Holmes Attracts 69 Million Viewers in China Despite Being Banned in Country for Being Too Risque" was the headline on one report; the third season of "Sherlock" was banned by the government's censors from the Chinese Central Television network and other channels, but still found an audience thanks to video web-sites.
274. The three Sherlockian and Doylean lots at auction at Christie's on June 19 brought nice prices: the manuscript of "The Adventure of Black Peter" (estimated at \$250,000-350,000) sold for \$317,000 (including buyer's premium), the original artwork for Sidney Paget's illustration showing Holmes and Wat Watson in the railway carriage (in "Silver Blaze") (estimated at \$40,000-60,000) sold for \$112,500, and the pair of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's surgical scissors (estimated at \$5,000-7,000) sold for \$4,625. And it has been reported that both the manuscript and the artwork went to the same bidder (present at the auction). Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" report on the items is at <www.tinyurl.com/mgwh55r>.
275. The Baker Street Irregulars have organized excursions to the Vermissa Valley (2004), the Country of the Saints (2008), and the University of California in Los Angeles (2012), and (hold the dates) the next event will be a conference at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York on Sept. 16-18, 2016. Details to come.
276. The collection of John Lennon manuscripts brought good prices at Sotheby's in New York on June 4 (Mar 14 #2). The manuscript of "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield" (a parody that was published in A SPANIARD IN THE WORKS in 1965, and featured Shamrock Wolmbs and Doctored Whopper), was estimated at \$50,000-70,000 and sold for \$209,000 (including the buyer's premium), and illustrations for the story also sold well above estimates.
277. A new Sherlockian society for numismatists and coin collectors will hold an organizational meeting in Rosemont, Ill. (near Chicago), on Aug. 9, during the American Numismatic Association's World Fair of Money. Details available from Greg Ruby <greg@gregrubyconsulting.com>.
278. "Metal Knight" is a new digital album from Charlemagne Productions featuring songs by Christopher Lee, who at 92 years old still has a fine voice; there's a sample at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/msng5b9>, kindly reported by Alexander Orlov. It's not Sherlockian, but still nicely done. And there's an interesting web-site at <www.charlemagneproductions.org>.
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279. Jun 14 #2: Henry Cauvin's THE KILLING NEEDLE (New York: Locked Room International, 2014; 152 pp., \$15.99) features an amateur detective skilled at observation, deduction, and forensic science, who occasionally takes drugs, and whose story is told by a doctor who becomes his friend and associate. This all may sound familiar, but he's not Sherlock Holmes; instead he's Maximilien Heller, and the book was first published in French in 1871, leading to speculation that it may have inspired Conan Doyle to create his own similar detective. The translation is by John Pugmire, whose web-site

- <www.lockedroominternational.com> is devoted to English translations of foreign-language locked-room mysteries. THE KILLING NEEDLE is an interesting mystery, French rather than English, and of course Conan Doyle (who read and spoke French) might well have been familiar with it.
280. Ron De Waal suggests that Les Klinger seems to have set a record (some time ago). THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, which weighs 15.8 pounds, likely is the heaviest Sherlock Holmes book or set ever published. Of course the single issues of The Strand Magazine that contain the 58 stories published in the magazine would weigh more, but they include a lot of non-Sherlockian material.
281. When in Russia: Alexander Orlov has reported a Sherlock Holmes restaurant/ bar/museum in Obninsk (62 miles southwest of Moscow); their web-site is (in Russian) at <www.sherlockbar.ru>.
282. William Freeman's DICTIONARY OF FICTIONAL CHARACTERS (1963) contains brief entries for the names of "20,000 characters from over 2,000 literary works --novels, short stories, poems, plays, and operas--by 500 British and American authors," and it's a frustrating and intriguing book. Frustrating because there's no author index, so one can't easily locate all of the characters created by a particular author. And intriguing because it's impossible to figure out why particular characters were or were not chosen. The major characters from Conan Doyle's best-known books are included, not only the stars of the Canon, but also from the Challenger and Gerard stories and from THE WHITE COMPANY, SIR NIGEL, RODNEY STONE, and UNCLE BERNAC, and with some of the minor characters from those novels. But Freeman appears not to have read THE VALLEY OF FEAR: Birdy Edwards and Jack Douglas are missing, and the only McMurdo listed is Bartholomew Sholto's servant in THE SIGN OF FOUR.
283. Samantha Wolov noted a Facebook reference to a hair salon in Chico, Calif., called Shear Locks Home; it's not there any more, but there is a Shear Lock Home in Delhi, Iowa, a Shear Lock Combs in Edmonton, Alberta, and a ShearLock Combs West in St. Charles, Mo. <www.shearlockcombs.com>.
284. Howard Ostrom's five-part essay on "The Original Baker Street Babes" at the No Place Like Holmes web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qyooq7g> (Dec 13 #5) has now been supplemented by Lexi Wolfe's four-part video documentary at YouTube; go to <www.youtube.com/watch?v=VH7FfQ4J7co> for the first part, with links at the right to the other three parts. Howard's latest essay is about the many Russian presentations of Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, and television, available at <www.tinyurl.com/qd3mu5e>; "From Russia with Love" was written with assistance from Alexander Orlov and others and it demonstrates how valuable Internet archives in other countries and languages can be.
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285. Jun 14 #3: Lenny Picker has reported the just-released direct-to-DVD film "Baby Geniuses and the Treasures of Egypt" (\$14.99); there's a trailer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/k6g4y8r>. "An adorable group of talking baby detectives travel to the deserts of Egypt to track down the naughty baby-criminal mastermind Big Baby and his partner, the supervillain Moriarty (Jon Voight).
286. The BBC's "Sherlock" series is thoroughly popular world-wide, and if you'd like to see a grand example of youth, energy, and enthusiasm, take a look at the video of the "I Am Sherlocked Dance Mob" performed earlier this year in St. Petersburg <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqIFjX3lpz0>. Thanks to Alexander Orlov for reporting the video.
287. Tom Wheeler has expanded his THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Nov 11 #8) into five "New Generation Travel" e-books with active Internet links now available from Amazon Digital Services <www.amazon.com>; just search for [thomas bruce wheeler]. He also offers an impressive set of presentation notes for "The London of Sherlock Holmes" with color photographs and active links; it will run on any computer that has Microsoft Word installed, and it's available on request from Tom <londonsecrets@europe.com>.
288. Not only "Fleet-street was choked with red-headed folk," John Bergquist has suggested, after spotting a news report about what happened in Montréal on May 3, when ginger-haired Celine Dompierre, who wanted to foster a greater sense of community among those who shared her hair color, used Facebook to organize a gathering in a park on Mount Royal. You can find stories (and video) with a Google search for [redheads montreal].
289. Fran Martin reported in the June issue of The Petrel Flyer (the newsletter of The Stormy Petrels of B.C.) that her daughter Becky had interviewed Dan Aykroyd, who said that his great-grandfather corresponded with Conan Doyle. Asked if he was a Holmes fan, Aykroyd replied, "Oh yes. Absolutely, sure. Who isn't, really?" Go to <www.tinyurl.com/odbqb6n> to read the entire interview. It should be noted that Aykroyd played Watson in "The Case of the Scarlet Membrane" (a skit broadcast on "Saturday Night Live" in 1978).
290. The protagonist of Steven Galloway's THE CONFABULIST (New York: Riverhead, 2014; 304 pp., \$27.95) is Martin Strauss, the man who killed Harry Houdini (twice); the novel's an imaginative and interesting tale of magic and magicians, espionage, and murder, and it includes a fictionalized account of Houdini's meetings with Conan Doyle.
291. The second annual "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" symposium will take place in Dayton, Ohio, on Mar. 21, 2015, and more information is available from Martin Arbagi <martin.arbagi@gmail.com>.
292. The Second Annual John H. Watson Society World Invitational Canonical Treasure Hunt will be launched at noon on Aug. 1 as a challenge to Sherlockian teams and individuals world-wide; Don Libey promises that this year's challenge will be more difficult than last year's. The rules and regulations are available at <www.tinyurl.com/ndaamme>. Don also announced on June 17 that the society's journal The Watsonian will also be available as a digital edition; details at <www.johnhwatsonociety.com/index.html>.
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293. Jun 14 #4: "Enduring War: Grief, Grit, and Humour" is the title of a British Library exhibition (open through Oct. 12) that commemorates the centenary of the First World War <www.tinyurl.com/mgjkfk2>; one item on display is the letter Conan Doyle wrote to his mother in 1917 about his son Kingsley: "I do not fear death for the boy for since I became a convinced spiritualist death became rather an unnecessary thing, but I fear pain and mutilation very greatly." There's also a link to the Library's World War One web-site, which has images of the manuscript original of Conan Doyle's "Petition in Support of Roger Casement" <www.tinyurl.com/n974fae>.
294. The second vintage from 221B Cellars honors "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with a Sonoma County Zinfandel and an attractive label; as last year, it's a limited first edition wine, and you can read all about it, and order your bottles, at <www.221bcellars.com>. Don Libey and Don and Joanne Yates obviously are having fun with their project.
295. Benedict Cumberbatch briefly had green hair, according to Claire Pritchard-Jones. She's the make-up artist for the BBC series "Sherlock" and appeared this month at the Sherlock Holmes Convention in Vienna. You can read all about it (and much more) in a Radio Times story <www.tinyurl.com/lf7otms>; don't neglect the link in the second paragraph to the Q&A, which is really just a report on the stories she told.
296. Alexander Orlov has noted <www.ataboyclare.com>, a web-site maintained by Adam Roche and devoted to classic movies and old-time radio, with interesting podcasts, three of them with Basil Rathbone material.
297. The Undershaw Set is now available from the Baker Street Irregulars Press <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/undershaw.html>. The slip-cased set contains signed, numbered, and specially-bound copies of two books: Michael Dirda's ON CONAN DOYLE: OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING (Oct 11 #2) and Joel Silver's THE REMARKABLE CHARACTERS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Feb 14 #1); all profits from the set will go to the Undershaw Preservation Trust to help preserve Conan Doyle's former home.

298. Congratulations (again) to Dan Stashower, whose *THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR* has been nominated for a Macavity (best nonfiction) by Mystery Readers International. The book also has won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar (best fact crime) and Malice Domestic's Agatha (best non-fiction work).
299. Patricia Guy's *BACCHUS AT BAKER STREET: SHERLOCK HOLMES & VICTORIAN DRINKING LORE* (Nov 95 #6), now available as an e-book (\$2.99), presents an expert's examination of the wine, beer, and spirits found in the Canon, and the brewers, vintners, barkeepers and wine-merchants, with flavor and humor and an occasional surprise; it's another fine example of how useful e-books can be bringing interesting books to a new generation of readers.
300. Eli Wallach died on June 24, after a long career on stage and screen. He acted for more than 60 years. He was best known for his role as the bandit Tuco in "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" (1965), he titled his memoirs *THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND ME: IN MY ANECDOTAGE* (2005); he also played Napoleon Bonaparte in the film "The Adventures of Gerard" (1970).
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301. Jun 14 #5: Edith Pargeter (as Ellis Peters), best known for her long series of Medieval mysteries starring Brother Cadfael, also wrote imaginative short stories and novelettes for newspapers, magazines, and anthologies; her *THE TRINITY CAT AND OTHER MYSTERIES* (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 2006; 262 pp., \$19.00), part of Crippen & Landru's "Lost Classics Series", includes one (almost) Sherlockian story that was inspired by one of the Canonical tales. The publisher specializes in collections and anthologies of short stories, with a web-site at <www.crippenlandru.com>.
302. *UNDILUTED HOCUS-POCUS: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN GARDNER* (Princeton University Press, 2013; 233 pp., \$24.95) is a delightful book. Gardner, who died in 2010 (May 10 #5), grew up in Tulsa with John Bennett Shaw, and had many enthusiasms, including Sherlock Holmes, and in these memoirs he tells grand stories about John and the many other interesting people he Gardner met during his long career as a writer and debunker of the paranormal and supernatural.
303. A brief story about the wonders of a computerized world: it took me three visits to the Maryland Motor Vehicles Administration, and two to the Social Security Administration, to renew my driver's license, because the MVA has to confirm my identity with the SSA. And someone at the SSA had typed my name into their system as Blaie. But now I'm officially me.
304. It's well known among Sherlockians, and more and more among others (thanks to the efforts of Cliff Goldfarb) that it wasn't Conan Doyle who assisted Dorando Pietri across the finish line at the 1908 Olympics in London. But it's less well known that it was Pietri's ordeal that inspired a young man in New York to write his first complete song, about an Italian barber who sells his barber shop and bets all the money on Pietri. The songwriter was Irving Berlin; there seems to be no recording of the song on the Internet, but the lyrics of "Dorando" are available at <www.tinyurl.com/kq6q5xv>.
305. Jennie Paton reports that "The Final Problem" (the seventh program in the Russian television series that stars Igor Petrenko and Andrei Panin) is now available with English subtitles at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/lh7fyd8>. One more to go to complete the series with subtitles.
306. Credit Thierry Saint-Joanis for noting a report that the Baker Street tube station is being refurbished, which will involve removal of tiles showing a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes. Cleshar Contract Services is doing the work <www.tinyurl.com/ozoocvd> and plans to reinstall some of the tiles in a few areas, and send the rest of the tiles to auction to benefit Sparks, a children's benefit medical research charity <www.sparks.org.uk>. You can read all about it in French and English, and see colorful images of the station, at <www.tinyurl.com/odauxne>.
307. Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" continues to offer interesting content, including podcasts recorded by Scott and Burt Wolder. Their latest podcast (#65) is "Art in the Blood" <www.tinyurl.com/ndfy6l3>; they interviewed Tom Richmond (described as one of the "usual gang of idiots" at Mad Magazine), and they offer a full-color view of Richmond's panorama of eight actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes (prints are available from the artist) and a series of links that portray more of his work.
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308. Jun 14 #6: Fans of Sherlockian poetry will welcome the news that there are a few copies of Ellay Aitcheson's *ACD MYSTERY SONNETS*, issued by the Hansom Press in 1998) still available, with "Five and twenty sonnets culled from the Canon". You can order the booklet from Len Haffenden (1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada) for \$15.00 postpaid, with checks payable to Len, please.
309. "Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes" (recorded by the Spirits of Rhythm for Decca in 1934) has been available on the Internet for some time (Oct 01 #2), but now there's something new, spotted by Alexander Orlov: the song accompanied by clips from the Granada series, at <www.tinyurl.com/lbtvlp8>.
310. Since it's summer, there's lots of theater coming up, here and there. The East Haddam Stage Company will repeat last year's production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" (Jul 13 #5); it's a 30-minute live-action radio drama using the script from William Gillette's 1930 broadcast) at Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., July 5 through Aug. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/kag2zqm>.
311. "Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Murders" (adapted by Jeremy Holstein from William S. Baring-Gould's "Jack the Harlot Killer") will be one of the three plays in "Summer Radio Mystery Theatre: Super Sleuths" at Responsible Grace Church in Somerville, Mass., on July 11-19 <www.tinyurl.com/m8mcbta>. The other super sleuths are Hercule Poirot and Lady Molly of Scotland Yard. "Jack the Harlot Killer" is a chapter in Baring-Gould's biography *SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET* (1962).
312. "Sherlock Holmes: The Pantomime" with words by Jenny Gilbert will be performed at the Playhouse Theatre in Glen Eden, New Zealand, from July 12 to 25 <www.playhousetheatre.co.nz>.
313. The Rumpus Theatre Company will offer "Sherlock Holmes: The Scandal of the Scarlet Woman" (based on "A Scandal in Bohemia") at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon on Sept. 18-20 <www.fairfield.co.uk>, and at the Chelmsford Civic Theatre in Chelmsford, Oct. 16-17 <www.chelmsford.co.uk/sherlock-holmes>.
314. "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is a new play by Eric Coble, based on a series of four graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulton, due for its world premiere by First Stage at the Todd Wehr Theater in Milwaukee from Oct. 17 to Nov. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/q8a7hsz>.
315. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" is scheduled by the Kirk Players in Mundelein, Ill. Mar. 27-29, 2015 <www.kirkplayers.org>.
316. The news of the British play comes from Roger Johnson's excellent newsletter *The District Messenger*, which is published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and offers excellent coverage of what's going on in Britain, Europe, and elsewhere; it's available without charge by e-mail and at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php>. His e-mail address is <rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk>.

Jul 14 #1:

317. The saga continues: Les Klinger has applied to the Court of Appeals to recover his expenses in his lawsuit against the Conan Doyle Estate, quoting the Court's statements that the Estate's argument lacked "any ground known to American law," and that the appeal "borders on the quixotic." He is requesting about \$68,000 for expenses for the entire case. The Estate then asked the Court of Appeals to stay its ruling that only the characters and story elements in the last ten stories are protected, while the Estate asks the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case, because recent "movies and television shows demonstrate that the Sherlock Holmes character is more popular than ever," and because allowing "the Court's opinion to have

- immediate effect will have a chilling effect on the Estate's ability to manage" promotion and development of the character through licensing agreements."
318. The Court of Appeals denied the Estate's motion for a stay, and the Estate then asked Elena Kagan (the Supreme Court's Circuit Justice for the Seventh Circuit) to delay implementation of the Court of Appeals decision while the Estate petitions the Supreme Court to review the case; Justice Kagan dismissed the request without comment, and the Court of Appeals decision remains in effect while the Supreme Court decides whether to accept a petition that the Estate has said it plans to submit in a few months. The Supreme Court receives about 10,000 petitions a year, and accepts (and hears oral arguments) in about 75 to 80 cases. As always, you can read the documents in the case at <www.free-sherlock.com>.
319. It's time for a challenge (repeated from Oct 88): A non-Sherlockian friend reports recently riding in a taxi driven by a man who said that there were only four people in the Sherlock Holmes stories who smoked pipes. Who were they? The answer's in this month's issue.
320. The Kent & Sussex Courier reported (June 14) on a fire at Windlesham Manor, formerly the home of Conan Doyle and now a home for the elderly. An alarm was raised at 12:44 am: smoke was reported in one of the rooms, and three fire engines were sent from Crowborough and Uckfield. One person was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation and several others were checked over by ambulance crews. Brian Pugh heard from the manager that there was only minor damage to one of the rooms.
321. "Mad Movies with the L.A. Connection" (a syndicated television series that aired in 1985 and 1986) spoofed old movies by editing them to fit a 30-minute slot and overdubbing new dialogue. The series included new versions of "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" and "Dressed to Kill" that are now available on-line at <www.madmoviesonline.com>; they went on to parody "The Woman in Green" in 1993, available at their web-site (\$3.79).
322. "Anna May Wong: In Her Own Words" (2013) aired on PBS this year, and it's worth watching for a repeat. The one-hour documentary was written by Yunah Hong, with quotes from her letters, and you can watch a six-minute preview at <www.tinyurl.com/m6nrzd5>. She was a fine actress, and the documentary includes a production still showing her as Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933); she also was parodied earlier in the marionette burlesque "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930).
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323. Jul 14 #2: Taxi drivers are not always experts. At least seven people who are named in the Canon smoked pipes (as you might have discovered from the entry for "tobacco" in Jack Tracy's THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA). Sherlock Holmes, of course, and Dr. Watson. John Straker also smoked a pipe ("Silver Blaze"), and so did Grant Munro ("The Yellow Face"). Thaddeus Sholto smoked a hookah ("The Sign of the Four"), and Isa Whitney smoked opium ("The Man with the Twisted Lip"). Peter Carey owned a tobacco pouch ("Black Peter"). But: who's the eighth person named in the Canon who appears to have smoked a pipe? The answer will be found on the next page.
324. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" was a fine excuse for a visit to Columbus, Ohio, where it's open through Sept. 1 at the Center of Science and Industry. COSI (pronounced coh-seye, so that it's not mistaken for the restaurant chain) is very much a hands-on museum, which makes it a fine venue of the exhibition, which is a well-designed combination of artifacts and hands-on activity.
325. The exhibition consists of three rooms, the first devoted to London, Arthur Conan Doyle, Joseph Bell, and Sherlock Holmes, with displays that include a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, original manuscripts, and artwork by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele. The second room has a fine recreation of the sitting-room, and an opportunity to investigate a mystery (designed by Dan Stashower) that offers young and old first-hand experience with observation and deduction. And the third room is devoted both to modern times and to the collectibles that fascinate Sherlockians; the displays include costumes and props from modern films (Downey) and television series (Cumberbatch and Miller), and items such as the Czarina's specially-bound copies of the Canon from John Bennett Shaw's collection, and copies of the old and new series of The Baker Street Journal.
326. There's lots to see and do, and the exhibition is thoroughly engaging (and was well-attended). The labels are easily read (nice for people who have extremely-middle-aged eyes), and visitors can learn a lot (if they want to) about Victorian times and the Sherlockian world. There's a fine video introduction to the exhibition by Conan Doyle's grand-nephew Richard), and an assortment of videos showing modern forensics (including an explanation of forensic toxicology by Marina Stajic). Bottom line: go if convenient--if inconvenient, go all the same.
327. The exhibition's scheduled next at the Saint Louis Science Center in Saint Louis, Mo., from Oct. 9 through Jan. 4, 2015; then at the Perot Museum of Science & Nature in Dallas, Texas, opening Feb. 2; at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., opening on June 11; the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, in Denver, Colo., opening Oct. 15; and at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, opening Oct. 13, 2016. The exhibition web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>, and the web-site for Columbus is at <www.cosi.org/exhibits/sherlock>.
328. The Bolton News reported (June 8) that "Burnt Copies of the Bible and Sherlock Holmes" were found next to a torched 10-foot wizard's chair in Tonge Moor. The wizard's chair was installed in a woodland playground near Bolton (in Lancashire); there has been no further word on whether the vandals have been apprehended, nor (of course) why they chose those two Canons.
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329. Jul 14 #3: Jim Browner ("The Cardboard Box") is the eighth person named in the Canon who appears to have smoked a pipe. And not because the cardboard box was a "yellow, half-pound honeydew box," since he could, after all, have obtained the box anywhere. There is much better evidence. What's that better evidence? Again, the answer's on the next page.
330. "We just think Holmes is really cool, but having always been attracted to the darker side of life, Moriarty just stood out as a basis for our music. He is clever, devilish and unrepentant--what more do you want from a band?" The British two-man band is called Moriarty [that's their spelling], and the musicians are Jordan Macneil West and Matthew Partridge; they're based in Devon, and their web-site's at <www.moriarty.co.uk>. They have an EP ("Lord Blackwood") and a new album ("The Devil's Child"), and a 30-minute documentary at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=5y8k73POMm4>.
331. Here's Ian McKellen as the 93-year-old Sherlock Holmes in "Mr. Holmes" (that's the new title for the film based on Mitch Cullin's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND), now filming and scheduled for release next year.
332. "It's Queen Vic, Talking Statue, on the Line" was the headline in the Sunday Times (July 6) on a story spotted by Oscar Ross: the Talking Statues Speak Their Minds project, which will run for a year starting on Aug. 19, allows people with smartphones to hear what statues have to say. Anthony Horowitz wrote the script for the statue of Sherlock Holmes outside the Baker Street tube station, and the recording is by British actor Ed Stoppard (son of Tom Stoppard). Best known for his role as Henryk in "The Pianist" (2002), Stoppard also played Sir Hallam Holland, the Foreign Office diplomat who inherited 165 Eaton Place, in the latest "Upstairs Downstairs" series.
333. Pennie Mae Cartawick's series of almost two dozen pastiches offers a good demonstration of what can be done with digital publishing: all of them are available for Amazon Kindle (99¢ each), and there are collections for Kindle and on paper, and readings at Amazon and Audible (which you can sample on-line). The author has a blog at <www.tinyurl.com/l8y7h5f> with news and promotions and special offers.

334. Andrew Page ("Lord Saltire") died on May 10, 2013. He became interested in Sherlock Holmes during his high school years, and in 1971 became an energetic author, editor, and publisher, receiving his investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1974. He went on to a career as a teacher of high school English and then community college mathematics; there is much more about his contributions to the Sherlockian world in The Baker Street Journal's 2003 Christmas Annual, which was devoted to what was called the Junior Sherlockian Movement.
335. It was 125 years ago that J. M. Stoddart invited Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde to dinner at the Langham Hotel and commissioned both authors to write stories for Lippincott's, and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will honor the event at dinner in the Grand Ballroom at the Langham on Aug. 30; consult the Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pns2xza> for more information on The Stoddart Dinner.
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336. Jul 14 #4: Oscar Ross has noted a BBC news story about Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office showing at least one program from the "Sherlock" series at a film festival held in Pyongyang in 2012, in hopes of "encouraging change" in North Korea. The episode wasn't "The Empty Hearse" (which the BBC explained involves Holmes identifying a British minister and peer as a North Korean spy who attempts to blow up Parliament); that episode hadn't been filmed, and wasn't broadcast until Jan. 1, 2014.
337. The better evidence for Jim Browner having been a pipe-smoker is found in The Strand Magazine, where Sidney Paget illustrated Jim Browner smoking a pipe. D. Martin Dakin seems to be the first person to have mentioned this in print (in A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMMENTARY).
338. The 198 competitors in the Tour de France started this year's event in Leeds, England (the cycling race covers 3,664 kilometers in four countries over three weeks before ending in Paris), and the Associated Press provided this photograph of a man dressed as Sherlock Holmes with cycling fans in Leeds.
339. Sam Siciliano's THE GRIMSWELL CURSE (London: Titan, 2013; 233 pp., £7.99/ \$9.95) is a sequel to his THE WEB WEAVER (Feb 12 #6); the narrator is Sherlock Holmes' cousin Dr. Henry Vernier, who with his wife Michelle (also a doctor), assists Holmes in investigating the case of a young woman who may be subject to a long-standing family curse.
340. There was more original artwork by Sidney Paget at auction last month, at Reeman Dancie Auctioneers in Colchester <www.tinyurl.com/ncnvfoz>: an oil-on-canvas painting of sheep on a hillside, was estimated at £100-150 but went unsold.
341. Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com> continues to offer interesting commentary, including his recent "Found and Lost: The Manuscript of THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES" (the manuscript did exist, and may still, and of course Ray would like to hear from the owner). Ray also has blogged about Starrett's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, reprinting (and commenting) on three reviews from the 1930s, with colorful illustrations that include the seldom-seen dust jacket of the first British edition.
342. Kelly Blau has noted THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES as a "personalized literary classic" offered by Signals <www.tinyurl.com/qy5my4n>. You're able to change the names of one to six major characters, and add a personal dedication on the opening page (\$39.95).
343. Val Biro died on July 4. He was a prolific children's author, artist, and illustrator, perhaps most famous for a series of 37 picture books about a car he called Gumdrop. Nick Utechin has noted that Biro's work appears on covers of John Murray paperback editions of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and TALES OF BRIGADIER GERARD, as well as in Fanny Cradock's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK. Some of his covers and original artwork can be seen at <www.abebooks.com>; just search for [biro sherlock] and [biro gerard] as author.
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344. Jul 14 #5: Steve Emecz at MX Publishing has posted a statement by Norman Stromsoy, the project manager for the Stepping Stones School's restoration of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, with details on their plans for the house. He also hopes that the Undershaw Preservation Trust "will want to use the new facilities to hold events to celebrate the life and times of Conan Doyle," and that he looks forward to "welcoming you to Undershaw in the autumn of 2015 when you will be able to see for yourself what has been achieved. The full statement's at <www.tinyurl.com/mhl356x>.
345. John Michael Gibson (the founder and director of the Undershaw Preservation Trust) has said that he welcomes the latest developments but is concerned "that the stables that have stood for 120 years that housed Doyle's horse Brigadier and his carriage and the well that he drew his water from may be lost in the new plans." And he filed an appeal asking for a review of the English Heritage decision to continue the Grade II listing for Undershaw; you can read the text of his appeal at <www.saveundershaw.com>.
346. An upgrade of the listing would have imposed strong controls over development that could have caused problems for the school's conversion of Undershaw into a school, but English Heritage denied the appeal, concluding that "the interest conferred on the building by its association with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is not sufficient to warrant upgrading given its modest architectural quality."
347. Escape Hunt is a chain of themed game rooms; the Sherlock Holmes room opened recently at the Concorde Hotel & Shopping Mall in Singapore. Each room is meant for two to five players, who have an hour to solve a mystery and escape from the room <www.singapore.escapehunt.com> (the young ladies likely were posing for a publicity photo).
348. The BBC announced (via Twitter at 2:21 pm on July 2) that shooting will begin in January on a "Sherlock" special, and that shooting for the next season will begin later next year; the special is likely to air at Christmas in 2015, with the next season starting the following year. Scott Monty had details on the BBC's tweeting at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pzok5pt>.
349. "Celebrity Deathmatch" was a 30-minute claymation series that was broadcast by MTV cable, and on July 20, 2000, the program included a 5-minute segment "Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper" that's now available on Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/o84j379>. Note: it's not for the faint of heart.
350. Orion Books launched its publicity campaign for Anthony Horowitz's second pastiche with a giveaway of advance proofs of "Moriarty" to twelve of the "most influential names in the book world" at the Rookery Hotel in Clerkenwell this month, according to a story in The Bookseller (July 16). But there were more than twelve influential people at the event, and 100 proof copies bound in velvet and lettered in silver, and Arifa Akbar reported on the party for the Independent (July 17) <www.tinyurl.com/kzweckm>. There has been no report (so far) of one of the copies for sale, but it shouldn't take long.
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351. Jul 14 #6: THE GRAPHIC NOVELS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is an attractive series of individual short stories, adapted by Vincent Goodwin and illustrated by Ben Dunn (Minneapolis: Magic Wagon/ABDO, 2010-2013, each with 48 pp., \$20.95), intended for young readers, and nicely done indeed. There are 18 titles in the series, and you can see cover artwork at the company's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oyxvm7l>.
352. The colorful Gold Bubble "Sherlock Holmes Collection" received lots of publicity this month. The California company, inspired by the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, used the wallpaper, the mind palace, the front door of 221B, and the iconic Belstaff Millford coat for themes Milford coat. There are additional images at the company's web-site at <www.goldbubbleclothing.com>, and more publicity photographs at <www.images.google.com>; search for [gold bubble sherlock] to see this image and many others.

353. Otto Penzler notes that the Mysterious Bookshop has published his annotated bibliography of first editions of mystery fiction set in the world of books (1849-2000). BIBLIOMYSTRIES (\$75.00) includes 130 full-color photographs or rare or especially interesting dust jackets and covers, and is limited to 200 signed and numbered copies. And there is Sherlockian content: not only Vincent Starrett's THE UNIQUE HAMLET, but also books by Robert Richardson, August Derleth, Christopher Morley, S. C. Roberts, and others.
354. "Whom do you consider your literary heroes?" "The author of the plays attributed to William Shakespeare; I am also a great fan of A. Conan Doyle." John Paul Stevens, former Supreme Court justice, in a "By the Book" interview in the N.Y. Times (Apr. 6), spotted by John Baesch.
355. MediaWeek reported (July 22) that BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, generated sales of £1.04 billion in the year that ended Mar. 31, due to the popularity of series such as "Doctor Who" and "Sherlock" (which has been licensed to 224 territories). BBC Worldwide's pre-tax profit for the year was £126.5 million.
356. Benedict Cumberbatch and John Malkovich will star together in a new movie: "Penguins of Madagascar" (animated in 3D and scheduled for a Thanksgiving release): Cumberbatch provides the voice for Agent Classified, a wolf who's head of an animal spy organization that teams up with the penguins to save the world from the evil octopus Dr. Octavius Brine (voiced by Malkovich).
357. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES PHILLIMORE (Sep 13 #6) was the most recent title in Dan Andriacco's series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, and his next book (ROGUES GALLERY) will have two novellas and three short stories. He has launched a crowd-funding campaign to get the book published, and you can read about it at <www.pubslush.com/books/id/2568>. He is using Pubslush, which says it is "the gateway to the literary world" and a "niche crowd-funding platform," and it's an interesting concept. His entertaining Sherlockian blog is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.

358. Jul 14 #7: Phil Attwell spotted a story in Radio Times (July 22) about the revival on BBC Radio 4 of the 30-minute series "Dead Ringers" on which impressionists will parody various public figures, including Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes; the first of six weekly episodes aired on July 30; the series can be heard on-line, but you may need to spoof the BBC into thinking you're in the UK (there are programs such as Hola! that help one do this) <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04brr99>.
359. A dastardly crime reported on the blotter of the police department on Bainbridge Island, Wash. (July 10): Someone stole a cell phone from a vehicle at the Day Road Park-and-Ride lot. The car owner had left the doors to his Honda unlocked at the time of the prow. The pipe was glass and shaped in a "Sherlock Holmes style." It was in a brown leather case. The phone and pipe were valued at approximately \$230.
360. There were 113 people on hand at University College in London on July 19, all of them wearing Sherlockian costume, to celebrate Benedict Cumberbatch's 38th birthday and to try to set a Guinness World Record for the most people gathered in one place dressed as Sherlock Holmes. Roger Johnson and Jean Upton were on hand for the festivities, and you can see them (briefly) in a video report by Charlotte Pamment, available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/q2736r3>. She has other interesting (although non-Sherlockian) video on the Internet, one being a report on an upside-down house in London <www.vimeo.com/86097204>.
361. The event was organized to raise awareness of the National Literacy Trust, and Roger Johnson has posted pictures from the gathering, and of the Sherlock Holmes BookBench (May 14 #5), at <www.tinyurl.com/ntoek3p>. You can click on each image to read Roger's captions.
362. "Madame Tussaud ain't in it," Sam Merton said (in "The Mazarin Stone"), but Sherlock Holmes (well, Benedict Cumberbatch) will be on display for visitors to Madame Tussauds in London beginning in October. You can see colorful photographs of him being measured for his waxwork figure in a Radio Times story (July 21) <www.tinyurl.com/qyzttel>. Cumberbatch was among the celebrities at Comic-Con in San Diego; the Guardian reported (July 25) that Hall H (the largest venue, with a capacity of 6,500) was filled completely, with many attendees dressed in Sherlockian costume, "despite this being a presentation that had nothing to do with the show whatsoever."
363. WinTrillions Casino offers a wide range of on-line games; based in Cyprus, it's the gaming division of Ledonford Gaming Services (licensed in Alderney, which is one of the Channel Islands). The casino's slot-machine-style games include one called "Sherlock Mystery", which you can find (with many other games) at <www.wintrillionscasino.com>.
364. If you'd like to spend a night at the Abbey Grange, Nick Utechin has found an Abbey Grange Hotel in Llangollen (you need to speak Welsh to be able to pronounce that properly): <www.abbey-grange-hotel.co.uk>. Completists may wish also to stay at the Abbey Grange Hotel in Nuneaton; their web-site's at <www.pierresrestaurant.co.uk>. There's also an Abbey Grange Church of England Academy in Leeds <www.abbeygrandacademy.co.uk>.

365. Jul 14 #8 Spotted by Nick Utechin: I Love Mel (which "started out life as a few badges that were made and handed out to make Mel Elliott feel better after her boyfriend dumped her") offers a "Colour Me Good: Benedict Cumberbatch" unofficial colouring book (£7.50) and other merchandise honoring the "Sherlock" television series <www.tinyurl.com/nuw9mo6>.
366. Upcoming theater: Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Jersey Lily" is running at the Cortland Repertory Theatre in Cortland, N.Y., through Aug. 9; their web-site's at <www.cortlandrep.org>. And the play's scheduled by the Richmond Hill Players in Geneseo, Ill., Oct. 2-12; their web-site's at <www.rhplayers.com>.
367. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., through Aug. 10 <www.bstreettheatre.org>. And it will be produced at the Actors' Theatre in Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 5-14; their web-site is at <www.theactorstheatre.org>.
368. Chris Hibbs' "The Curious Case in the Colony: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" is on at the Newman Wine Vaults in St. John's, Newfoundland, through Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/k5qghuu>.
369. "Sherlock Holmes: A Working Hypothesis" is a new interactive (audience-participation) play written by Alexander Wright that will be produced by the Flanagan Collective and the York Theatre Royal in York, Aug. 11 to Sept. 21 <www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk> <www.theflanagancollective.co.uk>.
370. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Drury Lane in Oakbrook, Ill., from Aug. 28 to Oct. 19; the theater web-site's at <www.drurylaneoakbrook.com>. And it will be produced by the Minstrel Players at Houghton Hall, Trinity Episcopal Church, in Northport Village, N.Y., Oct. 25-Nov. 2 <www.minstrelplayers.org>.
371. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" runs at the Randall L. Jones Theatre at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah, Sept. 20 to Oct. 18 <www.bard.org>. And at the CAT Theater in Henrico, Va., Oct. 24-Nov. 8 <www.richmondvatheater.com>.
372. Greg Oliver Bodine's "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" will be performed as a reading in the Sundays@Six series at the Jewel Box Theatre in New York on Sept. 21 <www.workshoptheater.org>.
373. The British publisher Titan Books has a nice run of pastiches in print, and 29 of them are listed at Titan's web-site <www.titanbooks.com>, along with an interesting blog about how their covers are designed. Not listed is ELEMENTARY: THE NEXT VICTIM, a pastiche spin-off from the CBS television

series, first announced for Sept. 30 and now scheduled for May 26, 2015. They haven't said who the author is, and the book's not available for pre-order at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Fans of the series are now waiting patiently for the debut of the third season, scheduled for Oct. 30.

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374. Aug 14 #1: The saga continues: 7th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Richard Posner has ordered the Conan Doyle Estate to pay Les Klinger the full \$30,679.93 requested to cover his costs in the Estate's appeal of the lower court decision that copyright protects only characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still under copyright. As always, you can read the documents in the case at <www.free-sherlock.com>. Judge Rubén Castillo has not yet decided on Les' request for \$39,123.44 to cover his costs in the original case. According to a Reuters dispatch (Aug. 5) Estate lawyer Benjamin Allison said that he will appeal both of the Appeals Court rulings to the Supreme Court.
375. "Masterpiece Mystery" started a new season of "Poirot" on July 30 on PBSTV, with a dramatization of "The Big Four" by Mark Gatiss and Ian Hallard; the program was quite different from the book and had none of the Canonical echoes found in the book (but there was a new Doylean echo). The season will complete David Suchet's appearances as Poirot in every major literary work by Christie that features the famous Belgian detective: 70 episodes over 25 years, and there are brief clips from all of them available at <www.agathachristie.com/poirot-tv>.
376. The Florence Freedom are a Frontier League professional baseball team based in Florence (near Cincinnati), Ohio, and on July 26 they presented a Sherlock Holmes Night that featured actors from the Murder Mystery Theater Company acting out a "Take 'em out at the ball game" Murder Mystery Theater, and the team wearing Sherlock Holmes Baseball Caps, which also were available for purchase by fans. They're now out of stock, but you can see photographs at <www.tinyurl.com/nyv97fk>.
377. At long last Sherlockians have a reason to watch "Downton Abbey" (not that most Sherlockians are not watching the series already): Richard E. Grant, who played Sherlock Holmes in "The Other Side" (a television program broadcast by BBC-2 in 1992), will appear in four episodes of "Downton Abbey" as Simon Bricker, an art historian and houseguest of the Crawley family (Grant said in an interview that "my knees will be taken off" if he reveals anything else about his character).
378. If you'd like to own a fancy car: Silverstone Auctions' Salon Privé Sale on Sept. 4 will include a 1931 Pur Sang Bugatti Type 51 estimated at £150,000-£170,000. The catalog notes that Bugatti's cars were bought and raced by elite customers such as Achille Varzi, Marcel Lehoux, Jean Pierre Wimille, Louis Chiron, and Arthur Conan Doyle. And yes, it's quite likely that it was Adrian Conan Doyle who was among their elite customers. You can read more about the car at <www.tinyurl.com/lghpesh>.
379. Alan Rettig has discovered Gutenberg Labo, a Japanese font foundry that has created a nice Dancing Men font that's available as a free download, and of course far more accessible than the first Dancing Men reported in my newsletter many years ago (Mar 92 #5). If you'd like to install the Gutenberg Labo font on your computer, it's at <www.tinyurl.com/q8sv652>. Alas, there seems to be no program that can be used to translate dancing men into something more easily readable.
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380. Aug 14 #2: The British Film Institute has launched a search for a copy of the first feature-length Sherlock Holmes film made in Britain, now high on the BFI's list of most-wanted films. This year is the centenary of the release of "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), directed by George Pearson and starring James Braginton as Holmes, and the BFI would love to hear from anyone who has a copy of the film.
381. It's not the first feature-length Sherlock Holmes film, however. That was "Der Hund von Baskerville" (A German film released a few months earlier in 1914), directed by Rudolf Meinert and starring Alwin Neuss as Holmes; that film also is not known to have survived. If you find either film in your basement or attic, keep in mind that they were made on nitrate film, which is extremely flammable (it has essentially the same chemical composition as guncotton), and may even auto-ignite.
382. For those who haven't figured out the Doylean reference in the television adaptation of "The Big Four": Conan Doyle self-experimented with the drug gelsemium, and in 1879 wrote about the results in the British Medical Journal; the unusual poison used in the television episode was gelsemine.
383. The new owners of the Crowborough Cross Pub, located in the heart of Crowborough, asked residents of the town to consider new names for the establishment, including Willet's Cross, the Red Cross Inn, and the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; in June the owners announced that they had decided to keep the name the Crowborough Cross. But you can still have a drink (or two) at the Conan Doyle in Edinburgh.
384. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has provided details on the next rover NASA will send to Mars, in 2020; the press release is at <www.tinyurl.com/oxrv26g>. The payload proposals include a spectrometer called SHERLOC (an acronym for Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals); go to <www.tinyurl.com/onfxzqxq> to read the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's detailed description of SHERLOC. The instrument, named by deputy principal investigator Rohit Bhartia, is indeed a tip-of-the-deerstalker to Sherlock Holmes: if you look closely at the shadow cast on the surface of Mars, you will see a thoroughly familiar profile. It should be noted that NASA has not asked people to rename the instrument so that the acronym will end with the letter K.
385. Brandon Daniel spotted the Kings Wild Project (a collection of products designed and produced by artist Jackson Robinson) <www.tinyurl.com/15g62m2>; search for [sherlock] to see their sets of attractive Sherlock Holmes playing cards (and a dealer's coin). The decks have nicely and appropriately decorated boxes, backs, court cards and jokers, and you can see excellent images at the web-site.
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386. Aug 14 #3: Watson's Tin Box will host the eighth "Scintillation of Scions" on June 12-13, 2015, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It's an entertaining gathering of both local and far-flung Sherlockians, with a fine list of speakers. More information's available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724); the Scintillation sold out last year, and has moved to a slightly larger venue, but you are advised to register sooner rather than later <www.scintillation.org>.
387. I'm not sure that 221b Con ("a con for all things Sherlockian") in Atlanta in 2013 was the first of its kind, but there have been more since then, including GridLOCK DC, in Alexandria, Va., this month <www.gridlockdc.com>, when 195 fans turned out for the fun and games. Some of the conventioners were old hands, but the vast majority were young (high school, college, and professional) and female, and fans of film and television (both "Sherlock" and "Elementary"); informal polling at panels revealed that about half had not (yet) read all of the Canon. There was some imaginative cosplay, table games (including Nea Dodson's Sherlockian version of Fluxx, and an assortment of vendors, and it was nice to find a younger generation interested in the Canon as well as in its dramatizations. The older generation(s) had a chance to learn some new vocabulary, including "headcanon" (Baring-Gould's SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET is headcanon); "cosplay" is costume play, and you can look Fluxx up at Wikipedia.
388. On Oct. 14 Great Britain will issue a set of stamps honoring eight significant Prime Ministers; one of them being William Gladstone, who held the office four times, and is believed by some Sherlockian scholars to have been the real Lord Bellinger (in "The Second Stain").
389. Michael A. Hoey died on Aug. 17. He was the son of Dennis Hoey, who played Lestrade in Universal's "Sherlock Holmes" series, and had a long career in Hollywood as an editor, director, and writer. His memoirs ELVIS, SHERLOCK & ME were published in 2007 (with the subtitle "How I survived growing

- up in Hollywood"), and his SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE FABULOUS FACES (2012) was an affectionate look at the supporting actors in what he called "William Roy Neill's stock company."
390. Winston Churchill also is in the British set of stamps honoring significant Prime Ministers. He served in office twice, corresponded with Conan Doyle, and appears as a character in many Sherlockian pastiches. John McAleer reported in his biography REX STOUT that in Dec. 1931 Stout, then a prospective bridegroom, had "a night out with the boys" at a private club where Churchill was one of the guests (at half-past one, Stout remembered, Churchill "was sipping bourbon and discussing Sherlock Holmes with me and three other men." According to Stout, "Churchill knew the Holmes stories fairly well and thought them 'perfect entertainment.'"
391. Jennie Paton reports that the eighth and final program in the Russian television series that stars Igor Petrenko and Andrei Panin) is now available with English subtitles at YouTube; it's their version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and has little to do with Conan Doyle's story, but there are two nice jokes at the end <www.tinyurl.com/q7pe7n4>.
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392. Aug 14 #4: There was some discussion on the Hounds of the Internet mailing list this month about the failure of many histories of science fiction to credit Conan Doyle for writing in THE LOST WORLD about explorers finding dinosaurs alive and well in modern times, and Denny Dobry reported that Edward Douglas Fawcett's book SWALLOWED BY AN EARTHQUAKE (1894) also included an encounter live dinosaurs (in an underground world). It is interesting that Conan Doyle met Fawcett's brother, the noted explorer Col. Percy H. Fawcett, in 1910; there's more about this in Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD (1996) and in David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (2009).
393. The next book to be published by the Baker Street Irregulars Press will be SHERLOCKIAN SATURDAYS AT THE PRATT, edited by William Hyder; it's a selection from the many papers (both scholarly and pseudoscholarly), presented at the annual gatherings at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 1980 to the present. The book will be available for order (\$21.95) starting Sept. 10 <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
394. Strictly for the purists (and there are at least a few left): spelling usage now calls for optical CDs and DVDs being discs, and magnetic floppies being disks.
395. Stewart McPherson's LOST WORLDS OF THE GUIANA HIGHLANDS (2008) is now out of print, but it received an enthusiastic review in Country Life (Jan. 7, 2009), at hand from John Baesch. The tepuis at Mount Roraima are thought to be as close as one can get now to the Lost World of Conan Doyle.
396. Alexander Orlov has reported a nicely Sherlockian excuse to visit Saint Petersburg: a map of locations where scenes were filmed for the Russian series starring Vasili Livanov and Vitali Solomin. It's interactive (you can click on locations to bring up imagery <www.221b.ru/geo/geo-spb.htm>, and of course it's helpful if you can read Russian (but Google Translate is as always a useful assistant).
397. Photography is not permitted at the "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (now at COSI in Columbus, Ohio), but exceptions are made: you can see a slide show, thanks to WHYY's Artworks, at <www.tinyurl.com/qgtrfpw>, and get an idea of how well designed the exhibition is.
398. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) honors the new Arthur Conan Doyle Room, with descriptions of the room and of the festivities that celebrated the opening. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
399. I don't recall any mention of Joseph Joachim by Sherlockian scholars, but there seems to be a connection, noted by John Baesch: John Fowler wrote a letter to the BBC Music Magazine (Christmas 2013) pointing out that Joachim was a violin virtuoso, and the first to record music for unaccompanied violin; he made five recordings in 1903, one of them being the recording heard by the villains in "The Mazarin Stone". If you'd like to hear some of the recordings, there's a web-site at <www.josephjoachim.com>.
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400. Aug 14 #5: MX Publishing continues to offer interesting pastiches. David Ruffle's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS TRIALS (2012; 125 pp., \$9.95) brings Holmes and Watson back to back to the coastal town for an investigation of mysterious goings-on (there's also an account of what happened in the Grosvenor Square furniture van). Charlotte Anne Walters' CHARLIE MILVERTON AND OTHER SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (2014; 138 pp., \$11.95) is a retelling of five Canonical tales, set in modern times. Amy Thomas' THE DETECTIVE, THE WOMAN, AND THE SILENT HIVE (2014; 192 pp., \$16.95), the third in her series about Irene Adler, has her coming to London in search of Holmes' assistance involving a mystery triggered by one of Holmes' old cases. Fred Thursfield's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ESCAPE ARTIST (2014; 200 pp., \$14.95) has Watson's widow Mary and Sherlock Holmes in New York, and assisting Harry and Bess Houdini in solving a mystery created by a villainous spiritualist. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
401. Also from MX: Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SKULL OF KOHADA KOHEIJI AND OTHER STORIES (2013; 193 pp., \$16.95) has five macabre mysteries, with one of them involving a seance also attended by Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND YOUNG WINSTON: THE DEADWOOD STAGE (2012; 226 pp., \$16.95) is the first of Hogan's four novels that feature Holmes, Watson, and their new assistant: 12-year-old Winston Spencer-Churchill, who is a quick learner, precocious (as might be expected), and often amusing; Hogan's web-site is at <www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk>. J. Andrew Taylor's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE: THE WORMWOOD SCRUBS ENIGMA (2012; 140 pp., \$9.95) begins with a locked snow-covered field mystery: two headless prison guards are found near Wormwood Scrubbs, with no traces of a perpetrator; Holmes and Watson discover the solution.
402. The Ice Bucket Challenge has gone viral. It's intended to raise awareness of and collect funds for research on ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), and Benedict Cumberbatch has participated: there's a 3-minute video available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/o7vhy6k>.
403. Lyndsay Faye (who is proud of her Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars as "Kitty Winter") has some interesting things to say about her namesake at the Baler Street Babes web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pzxxu69>.
404. The Langham Hotel, mentioned more than once in the Canon, and the site of the famous dinner at which Conan Doyle was commissioned to write "The Sign of the Four", is offering an "exclusive commemoration package for Sherlock Holmes aficionados." Their "Sherlock Holmes Package" costs £329 per night for two people, including an English breakfast and two tickets to the exhibition at the Museum of London, and you can upgrade to the Arthur Conan Doyle suite at £529 per night. Read all about it at the hotel's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/paszmv4>, where you may (or may not) still find the hotel media center's statement that it was at the Langham that "the famous series of Sherlock Holmes mysteries was born."
405. Empire Online reported (Aug. 21) that Nicholas Rowe, who starred in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), will appear again as Holmes in "Mr. Holmes" (the new title for "A Slight Trick of the Mind"). Ian McKellen stars in the new film as an aged Holmes, and Rowe will have a cameo as a younger Holmes.
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406. Aug 14 #6: Fans of Jeremy Brett and David Burke and Edward Hardwicke (and the Granada series) will welcome the news that the entire series has now been released by MPI Home Video on Blu-ray (\$59.98 for the disc with the first 13 episodes). Blu-ray is a digital optical-disc data-storage format that provides higher definition and requires a special player.

407. HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK, by Daniel Smith (New York: MJF Books, 2012; 192 pp., \$15.95), is a do-it-yourself guide to improving "your powers of observation, memory, and deduction" (with riddles and tests and solutions).
408. The 55th annual running of The Chicago Silver Blaze will take place at the Hawthorne Race Course on Oct. 18. All the details are available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106); her e-mail address is <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
409. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" opens at the Saint Louis Science Center in Saint Louis, Mo., on Oct. 9, and their web-site's up and running <www.slsc.org/sherlock-holmes>.
410. "I have done a new cat," T. S. Eliot once wrote, "modeled on the late Professor Moriarty, but he doesn't seem very popular, too sophisticated, perhaps." That was in a letter to Frank Morley, cited by David E. Chinitz in A COMPANION TO T. S. ELIOT (John Wiley and Sons, 2009, p. 231). Thanks to Alexander Orlov for noting this direct reference to "Macavity the Mystery Cat", which actress Kelsey Williams reads (with artwork from various sources) in a YouTube video uploaded <www.tinyurl.com/q8k9poq> by Ross K. Foad.
411. Thomas Mengert's THE CONFESSIONS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE THEOLOGICAL ODYSSEY OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE: VOLUME 1: THE WAGER AT REICHENBACH FALLS (Keyport: Victorian Gentlemen's Press, 2014; 230 pp., \$24.95) is the first of seven volumes offering an alternative account of the adventures of Holmes and Watson, with a lot of philosophy (religious and otherwise). The complete work will total more than 820,000 words (more than the Canon itself); there's a sample from the book, and two video interviews with the author, at <www.tinyurl.com/owhjfkfb>.
412. The Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto, Calif., opened in 1925 and is still operating, carefully restored, complete with Wurlitzer organ, and screening a full schedule of classic films <www.stanfordtheatre.org>. On Thursdays and Fridays into October they're showing weekly double features pairing the Fox and Universal "Sherlock Holmes" and Fox "Charlie Chan" films.
413. Internet fandom is awash with hopeful comment about a possible "Doctor Who" cross-over with "Sherlock" (Stephen Moffat and Mark Gatiss are showrunners for both series), and that may or may not happen, some day. In the meantime, there were Sherlockian echoes in "Doctor Who: The Snowmen" (broadcast on Dec. 25, 2012), and Les Klinger was the first to report many additional echoes in "Deep Breath" (the new season's first episode, broadcast on Aug. 23; Madame Vastra, the Victorian lizard lady, and Inspector Gregson are involved, and there are mentions of the Conk-Singleton forgery case and the Camberwell poisoner. If you're able to watch the BBC on-line, there's an 11-minute "Doctor Who Extra: Deep Breath" <www.tinyurl.com/mnofkfj> with a brief glimpse of a deerstalker (but not on the Doctor).

414. Aug 14 #7: There are many options available to authors who don't care if their work is not published in what now are called "dead tree books" by the many people who are happy to use e-books. One of those options is BookBaby, with an interesting web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qjdve2y>; it's a partner of Booktrack, which has published an "enhanced" version of "The Speckled Band" (Mar 12 #1).
415. Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com> is well worth visiting frequently: his most recent entries are a two-part piece on "The World's Most Famous Bookplate" (and it's a fine example of how much an energetic researcher can discover).
416. Howard Ostrom, continuing his research on Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, and television, has a new two-part essay ("Who's on First, It's Not So Elementary") about the first Sherlock Holmes performers in more than 40 countries; it's nicely illustrated, and you can read it at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mwdhy5g>.
417. Walter Harmidarow's THE FINAL SOLUTION (Oakville: LTDBooks, 2001; 155 pp., \$18.99) pits Holmes and Watson against Moriarty; Holmes is found red-handed at the scene of murder, and Watson suffers personal tragedy, but they eventually prevail. It's out of print, but copies are available from the author for \$15.00 <walterharmidarow@bell.net>.
418. L.A. Theatre Works recorded "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) in June, with Seamus Dever as Holmes and Geoffrey Arend as Watson, and you'll be able to purchase a CD or download at their web-site <www.latw.org> on Sept. 15. The national broadcast is scheduled for Oct. 25, when they'll also stream the show at their web-site; details at <www.latw.org/radio.html>.
419. The Sherlock Breakfast Club and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street are planning an "All-Holmes' Eve" celebration in Brentwood (a suburb of Los Angeles) on Oct. 25, with food, a costume party and contest, and entertainment, ranging from strictly Canonical to wildly imaginative. Details will be announced at their Meetup web-page <www.tinyurl.com/ltxaumq>.
420. "The Carlton Club will find me," said Sir James Damery (in "The Illustrious Client"). The Carlton Club was founded in 1832, and now offers reciprocity to members of 137 clubs in 36 countries; if you'd like to see what it looks like now, visit the web-site <www.carltonclub.co.uk>. John Baesch spotted a handsome advertisement for the Carlton in Country Life (Oct. 9, 2013).
421. The Common Core standards, widely used for teaching language, literature, and mathematics, have received a lot of publicity, some favorable and some unfavorable. If you would like to see how Sherlock Holmes was used in this year's New York Regents High School Examination in English Language Arts, it's nicely available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nld46rc>. Try your hand at testing your reading comprehension of something written by Arthur Conan Doyle. Or Langston Hughes. Or Carl Sagan. Thanks to Christopher Blau for finding the link to the exam. A Washington Post web-site blog (June 27) <www.tinyurl.com/n8doqxc> offers an explanation by two state educators of why they think the new exam is not a good test of college readiness.

422. Aug 14 #8 The BBC's "Sherlock" television series collected four Creative Arts Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences ("His Last Vow" was nominated in the Miniseries or Movie category): Cinematography, Single-Picture Editing, Music Composition, and Sound Editing. And Primetime Emmy Awards were won by Benedict Cumberbatch (Best Actor), Martin Freeman (Best Supporting Actor), and Best Writing (Steven Moffat).
423. And there's no shortage of productions of Sherlockian plays, some old and some new. Ken Ludwig's Gillette play "Postmortem" (recently rewritten as the comedy "The Game's Afoot") is being performed at the Tater Patch Players Theatre in Jasper, Ga., until Sept. 6 <www.taterpatchplayers.org>.
424. The West End Studio Theatre in Santa Cruz, Calif., has included "Sherlock Holmes" in its schedule of classes, starting Sept. 10; it's a "teen production" for grades 7-12, and there will be public performances on Dec. 5-6, at the Broadway Playhouse <www.westperformingarts.com>.
425. "Sherlock Holmes and the Canary Girls" (a new play by Keith Digby and John Clark) will be produced at the Kenton Theatre in Henley-on-Thames on Sept. 18-27 <www.kentontheatre.co.uk>.
426. "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel) will be performed at Theatre Burlington in Burlington, Ont. <www.theatreburlington.on.ca> Sept. 19-Oct. 4.
427. "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Philip Grecian) will be performed at the Break Room Restaurant and Dinner Theater in Topeka, Kan., Sept. 19-27 <www.breakroomdowntown.com>.

428. "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Richard Rose) will be produced at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Va., from Sept. 25 to Oct. 12 <www.bartertheatre.com>.
 429. The LifeHouse Theater will produce Tim Kelly's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Redlands, Calif., Oct. 25-Nov. 16 <www.lifehousetheater.com>.
 430. The East Haddam Stage Company will perform "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the Oliver Wolcott Library in Litchfield, Conn., on Oct. 29.
 431. "Sherlock Holmes and the Masters of Crime" (a new play by C. P. Stancich) is scheduled by the Theatre Company of Lafayette at the Mary Miller Theatre in Lafayette, Colo., Oct. 31-Nov. 23 <www.tclstage.org>.
 432. The Lamplighters Music Theatre specializes in productions of Gilbert & Sullivan, and this year's champagne gala and auction will be a satire titled "Sherlock Who?, or A Scandal in Barataria" at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre in San Francisco, Nov. 2, and at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts on Nov. 9 <www.lamplighters.org>.
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433. Sep 14 #1: The saga continues: the Conan Doyle Estate has filed a petition for a Writ of Certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking it to review the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that copyright protects only characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still under copyright. As always, you can read the documents in the case at <www.free-sherlock.com>. The Supreme Court receives about 10,000 petitions a year, and accepts (and hears oral arguments) in fewer than 100 cases.
 434. Alan Rettig has reported a nice discovery by his friend Bruce Louiselle: a Sherlock Holmes Pub in the Grand Hotel in Hellesylt (a small village on the west central coast of Norway <www.tinyurl.com/qyyypmu>.
 435. The "Victorian Fiction" section of the latest issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist has E. W. Hornung's "Gentlemen and Players" (edited with an introduction and notes by Eduardo Zinna). Hornung, Conan Doyle's brother-in-law, created Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman, and Zinna offers both a fine review of Hornung's life and work, and nicely helpful annotations to the story. Ripperologist is devoted to all aspects of Jack the Ripper (who is mentioned in Hornung's story); for information on how to subscribe, contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.
 436. It's "Erie's downtown party headquarters! The home of rock-n-roll!" according to the Facebook page for Sherlock's/Park Place in Erie, Pa. The photographs at Yelp suggest that it's a lively venue.
 437. More and more Sherlockian societies are using web-sites to make their history available, among them the Pleasant Places of Florida <www.ppflo.net>; click on "Publications" to see scans of their newsletter Communications all the way back to the first issue (Mar. 1972), as well as their round-robin pastiches and much more.
 438. The latest result of Howard Ostrom's continuing Sherlockian exploration is "Talk to the Animals, Sherlock; or, Animalary, My Dear Watson" (a nicely illustrated exploration of the animals who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes in various media); it's amusing and instructive to see how many different animals have appeared in Sherlockian roles. You can read it for yourself at <www.nplh.co.uk/animaltry.html>.
 439. Oscar Ross reports an upcoming event at the Belfast Comedy Festival on Oct. 3: Crazy Cat Comedy will present "No Sith, Sherlock" (billed as "an intergalactic night of Star Wars themed murder mystery comedy") that apparently is Sherlockian only for the punning title <www.tinyurl.com/my8hgwa>.
 440. The John H. Watson Society has announced the names of winners of its Second Annual Treasure Hunt (Jun 14 #3): the Open Team competition was won (again) by the Sound of the Baskervilles (of Seattle) with a perfect score, and the Open Individual competition by Denny Dobry (also again). You can find the details at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pq4hyfz>, and the questions (and answers) at <www.tinyurl.com/osorwt6>. Next year's event will be launched at noon on Aug. 1, 2015, and almost certainly will be even more difficult than this year's competition.
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441. Sep 14 #2: There were 443 people dressed as Sherlock Holmes at Temple Newsam in Leeds on Aug. 31 to help the campaign to raise funds for the Yorkshire Brain Research Centre, setting a new Guinness World Record.
 442. Steven Moffat and Sue Vertue sent a video message that's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/n98x3cj>, and contributed a signed copy of the script for "The Empty Hearse" as a prize for the "best dressed Sherlock". There are lots of photographs accompanying the report by the Daily Mirror (Aug. 31) <www.tinyurl.com/qe9x8f2>.
 443. SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. HARRY HOUDINI is a new five-issue comic-book mini-series due from Dynamite Entertainment in October. Anthony Del Col and Conor McCreery are the writers, and Carlos Furuzono the artist, and the web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/n8xyy63>.
 444. "Celtic New Bhoys Murak Wakaso Posts Bizarre Tribute to Sherlock Holmes After Mistaking Detective Outfit as Parkhead Tradition" was the headline on a story in the Glasgow Daily Record (Aug. 31): Wakaso, newly arrived from Ghana to join Glasgow Celtic, thought he was shown in local costume in a fan's photoshopped photograph, and reposted it on Instagram.
 445. Translating some of the strange words: Celtic is the Glasgow football team, bhoys are Celtic fans (or tough or thugs), and football, of course, is what Americans call soccer. Instagram, now owned by Facebook, is a service that allows people to share video and photographs on social media.
 446. The second season of "Elementary" has been released (discounted to \$39.84 at Amazon). And there's a "Elementary 2015 Wall Calendar" (discounted to \$13.49).
 447. William Gillette's (non-Sherlockian) play "Too Much Johnson" has been made into films in 1919, directed by Donald Crisp, and again in 1938, directed by Orson Welles for a planned Mercury Theatre stage-and-screen production; the play was performed briefly without the film, which was never shown to the public. But a copy of the film, discovered in Italy in 2008, has been restored (Aug 13 #4), and (thanks to the National Film Preservation Foundation) a 66-minute work print of the film now is available on the Internet, with informative film notes by Scott Simmon, at <www.tinyurl.com/msppnrk>.
 448. The Museum of London exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" opens on Oct. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/mp263ux>, and there already is tie-in merchandise: Christys' Hats and Lovat Mill have launched a new tweed inspired by Sherlock Holmes, and deerstalkers are available at Christys' web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kfasfqo>. And there's an interesting blog, with a short trailer, at <www.tinyurl.com/k48o8z8>.
 449. There now are six books in Andrew Lane's YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series, the latest being KNIFE EDGE (London: Macmillan, 2013; 356 pp., £12.99), which brings Sherlock back to England, where he continues his struggle with the Paradol Chamber. The next book in the series will be STONE COLD, due this month. Lane has a web-site <www.youngsherlock.com>, where you'll also find information about his LOST WORLD, which features Caleb Challenger (grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger).
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450. Sep 14 #3: Many of you will now have seen "Houdini" (the television film that aired in two two-hour episodes on the History Channel this month), but some of you have not, so I will avoid spoilers, except to say "don't believe everything you see." Nicholas Meyer's script draws heavily from THE SECRET LIFE OF HOUDINI: THE MAKING OF AMERICA'S FIRST SUPERHERO, by William Kalush and Larry Sloman (2006), which presents problems if you know a

- lot about Houdini and are annoyed when fiction is mixed with fact. Conan Doyle is in the film, played by David Calder; Lady Doyle is played by Linda Marlowe.
451. John Cox comments on the film in great detail at his excellent web-site at "Wild About Harry" <wildabouthoudini.com>; there are a lot of spoilers, so you might want to see the film before going to the web-site. He notes that an extended version of the film was broadcast in Britain; American who want to see the additional 26 minutes will need to buy the two-disc DVD set.
 452. Further to the report (Mar 04 #2) on THE MCGOVAN CASEBOOK: EXPERIENCES OF A DETECTIVE IN VICTORIAN EDINBURGH, by James McGovan [a pseudonym of William C. Honeyman], a story by Tom Hunt in the Wellington Dominion Post (Sept. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/pr5649u> tells of a direct link between Honeyman and Conan Doyle: Norval Scrymgeour wrote in The Scotsman (Nov. 1930) about a meeting with Conan Doyle: "He told me that when a student at Edinburgh University he read with zest the detective stories of James McGovan, and although he did not say so, I took it that these then immensely popular sensations, as much as the queer foible of his teach teacher, the eccentric Bell, influenced him towards evolving the logical processes that in time flowered in the Sherlock Holmes stories." THE MCGOVAN CASEBOOK, reissued in 2003, is still in print.
 453. Kudos to Bev Wolov for spotting the "Sherlock Coffee" mug (and for giving it to me as a birthday present). It may still be available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/k7jr7ec>.
 454. Maxim Jakubowski, a prolific author and editor of anthologies, has issued a call for submissions to THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF PROFESSOR MORIARTY ADVENTURES, to be published by Constable Robinson; visit his blog <www.tinyurl.com/meza8ke> for more information.
 455. Fans of 2048 (the fairly addictive computer game that runs on smart phones as well as computers) may not know that there are versions of the game keyed to the BBC series "Sherlock" easily found on-line, one of them at <www.tinyurl.com/nzd8qg2>. If none of the versions available suits you, there's a link that allows you can make your own.
 456. "How Watson Learned the Trick" (an amusing story handwritten by Conan Doyle in 1922 in the miniature book now found in the Queen's Dolls' House Library at Windsor Castle) will be published for the first time as a miniature book on Oct. 2, by Walker Books in collaboration with the Royal Collection Trust (£12.99); you can read the announcement at <www.tinyurl.com/mcp6w27>, and see images of the new edition on-line at the web-sites of Amazon, Waterstones, and other retailers.
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457. Sep 14 #4: William Atkins' THE MOOR (London: Faber & Faber, 2014; 371 pp., £18.99) is a delightful book: the moors encompass much more than Dartmoor, and Atkins writes vividly about the landscape and the people who have lived in and on it, with passing mentions of Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson and Baring-Gould. The "names on the land" are fascinating, and so is the land itself.
 458. Don Hobbs (aka The Maniac Collector), not content with merely pursuing foreign translations of the Canon, also blogs about them, and other things, at Inspector Lestrade's Blotter Page <www.tinyurl.com/qamstup>.
 459. Petr Kopl's SHERLOCK HOLMES: A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 159 pp., \$16.95) is an imaginative comic-book adaptation of more than one story, with spectacular full-color artwork and a preface by Aleš Kolodrubec. First published in Czech and now translated into English, it's a welcome sample of Kopl's "Victoria Regina" series. He has an interesting web-site at <www.petrkoppl.cz> (if your computer runs Google Translate you can pretend you're fluent in Czech, and if it doesn't you can pretend you are); the publisher's at <www.mxpublishing.com>.
 460. Another MX title is PROJECT TWO, TO ONE, BE: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A HOUSE OF LIGHT, SHADOWS, AND VIEWS (2014; 162 pp., \$16.95); edited by Carrie Carlson and Lynn Gale, it's an anthology of tributes to Undershaw, with a foreword by Laurie R. King, and essays, photographs, and artwork by other supporters of the campaign to preserve Conan Doyle's home.
 461. This Sherlock Holmes is a 3-year-old Appaloosa gelding, resident in Sunnyside, Wash., and offered for sale this month for \$550; his owner says she named him because of his "serious and inquisitive personality." You can see more photographs at <www.tinyurl.com/nxs9x3>.
 462. Further to the report (Nov 12 #1) that Scotland Yard was to be sold, it has gone on the market with an asking price of £250 million (significantly more than the £150 million reported previously). And City Hall hopes that the sale might raise more than £300 million, according to a story in the Guardian (Sept. 2). But it's not the historic Great Scotland Yard, but rather New Scotland Yard, which has served as police headquarters since 1967.
 463. There has been quite a bit of publicity for Russell Edwards' new book NAMING JACK THE RIPPER, who turns out to be Aaron Kosminsky, at least according to the author. Donald Rumbelow, who has a long record of expertise in Jack the Ripper research, is skeptical, and Lyndsay Faye, who did a lot of research for her pastiche DUST AND SHADOW (2009) is even more so, and explains her objections at her blog <www.tinyurl.co/kj8p4ak>.
 464. "The history of the mega franchise as we've come to recognize it--a bundle of different intellectual properties or a story world that is used across multiple mediums--arguably began with Sherlock Holmes." According to David Forbes, who also suggests that Conan Doyle's resurrection of Sherlock Holmes was a response to "the Victorian version of a hashtag Twitter campaign." This from an essay he posted on Sept. 8 at the Forbes web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/k93zeax>.
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465. Sep 14 #5: Further to the discussion of Joseph Joachim (Aug 14 #4), Laura Kuhn has noted that the violin virtuoso is mentioned by Jeremy Brett in the Granada series: in "The Resident Patient" Holmes says that he made a slight error in recalling Joachim's credenza in the Beethoven Violin Concerto (Holmes and Watson had seen and heard Joachim in concert the previous evening).
 466. Sarah-Lambert Cook presides over a "Pen, Lens, and Paintbrush" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/px5hvyr>, where she reported (Sept. 11) on her recent visit to the Reichenbach Falls, with lots of colorful photographs, including one showing an amusing "Sherlock cut-out" available at the Falls for those who want their picture taken there in Sherlockian costume.
 467. FAN PHENOMENA: SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Tom Ue and Jonathan Cranfield, is the latest in a series that's published by Intellect Books (Bristol/Chicago, 2014; 153 pp., £15.50/\$22.00); the contributors examine the many ways that enthusiasm for the Sherlock Holmes stories has been manifested over the years: there are interviews with authors who include Anthony Horowitz, Ellie Ann Soderstrom, and Jonathan Barnes; plus interesting articles such as Russell Merritt's carefully-researched "Holmes and the Snake Skin Suits: Fighting for Survival on 50s Television" (history for which the world is now prepared). You'll find the publisher's web-site at <www.intellectbooks.com>.
 468. "He's the Sherlock Holmes of entertainment, if Sherlock Holmes had a flair for comedy." That's forensic mindreader Colin Cloud, whose web-site is at <www.colincloud.com>.
 469. Alfred Weiner wants to sell an assortment of Sherlockiana (including a set of 16-2/3 rpm recordings of Basil Rathbone reading four stories, issued by the Audio Book Co. in 1958); he's at <almar@stny.rr.com>, and you can request a copy of his sales list from him.
 470. Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (50 pp.) offers (as always) an interesting mix of Sherlockian and Doylean poetry and prose, including Hanna Al-Kowski's imaginative winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, which honors the

- late Steve Clarkson and is sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md. It's nicely done, including the cover art: Holmes' certificate of proficiency from the British Bee-Keepers' Association (from the collection of the late Paul Churchill). The cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).
471. People who fondly remember the Livanov/Solomin television series will enjoy the insights in Zlata Serysheva's blog "The Amazing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and His Friend the Soviet Censorship" <www.tinyurl.com/nqa785b>.
472. Admirers of Conan Doyle know that his grandfather John Doyle was noted for his political caricatures (signed with his pen name HB). He was a painter as well, and an oil-on-canvas painting of a moonlit landscape, attributed to him, will be at auction at Auctionata in Berlin on Oct. 6, with a starting bid of £3,000 <www.tinyurl.com/lo6dxh9>.
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473. Sep 14 #6: BBC Home Entertainment is getting ready to release a "Sherlock Limited Edition Gift Set" (\$197.50) in a Blu-ray/DVD combination, with the first three seasons, new commentary, never-before-seen outtakes, a deleted scene, busts of Holmes and Watson, and two collectible art cards. And it's discounted to \$138.25 at Amazon.
474. I reported (Aug 14 #2) on the British Film Institute's search for a copy of "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), noting that it wasn't the first feature-length Sherlock Holmes film, and that "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1914), released a few months earlier, was not known to have survived. But it has survived: a copy was found in the Moscow film archive, and has been screened at European films festivals, but the film is not yet available on commercial DVD; Russell Merritt, who has seen the film, reports that it's "arguably the zaniest "Hound" ever made" and that "you won't soon forget Holmes disguised as Stapleton struggling with Stapleton disguised as Holmes in a fight broken up by Barrymore hidden in a suit of armor."
475. One wonders what Conan Doyle would have thought about the campaign for the independence of Scotland (he did, after all, favor Home Rule for Ireland). W. Gordon Smith, in a tribute to the late Eddie Boyd, recalled a story that Boyd once told on a weekly program broadcast by BBC Scotland: "Once upon a time there was a Scotsman, and Englishman, and an Irishman. His name was Conan Doyle."
476. But there's also Holmes' comment about a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes (in "The Noble Bachelor"). If this month's vote had been for independence, that would have launched consideration of revising the Union Jack to remove Scotland's blue, leaving only red and white.
477. Marvin E. Aronson ("Penrose Fisher") died on Sept. 6. He was chief medical examiner in Philadelphia from 1971 to 1985, and then was a medical consultant. Marv was a long-time and dedicated member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, and drew upon his expertise in forensic pathology in his contributions to The Baker Street Journal and in his article on "Sherlock Holmes: Father of Forensic Pathology" in Transactions & Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia (July 1978). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1968.
478. "He Who Laughs: Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Serial Chuckler" is the title of Joe Queenan's essay in the Weekly Standard (Sept. 15), and it's a piece that would have delighted John Bennett Shaw. There are quotes from Leigh Ashton-Hinds' THE HOUSE OF SUPPRESSED MIRTH: CHUCKLING IN LATE-VICTORIAN LITERATURE, and Adele Piggott-Gynne's SHERLOCK HOLMES, BOOTYMASTER, and you can read it all at <www.tinyurl.com/qf9q4se>.
479. The Waverley Borough Council has voted unanimously to approve plans to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (Jul 14 #5). John Michael Gibson appeared at the hearing to testify against the proposal, but his opposition was in vain. Norman Stromsoy, CEO of Stepping Stones, said at the hearing that the school's plans for Undershaw had the backing of two of Conan Doyle's relatives, one of them his great nephew Richard Doyle, who wrote in a letter to the school that "I don't believe that Undershaw should be preserved in aspic, but lived in and laughed in."
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480. Sep 14 #7: Broadway World ran a report (Aug. 28) that Sherlock Holmes may be headed to Broadway: Tony Award nominated producer Antonio R. Marion ("Big Fish" and "Evita") is said "to be shepherding the project that is currently in the development stage." The new play will be accompanied by a live orchestra, and the show is rumored to have workshop productions planned for this fall both in New York and the U.K.
481. Sarah Rosenbaum spotted the Olde Book Pillow Classics at ThinkGeek; one of them is Sherlockian (\$17.99) <www.thinkgeek.com/product/1545/?srp=1>, and it "will look great in your reading nook."
482. There has been a lot of Internet publicity for "The Great Ace Attorney" (an addition to the Japanese Nintendo 3DS series from Capcom); the new game is set in the Meiji period, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are in the cast of characters. You can see artwork at <www.capcom.co.jp/dai-gyatuken> (the text's in Japanese) and read comments at <www.tinyurl.com/qdtnxw> (in English). There's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/n4puuse>.
483. This may be a first for Sherlockian collectors: Warpzone Prints uses a 3D printer to make an assortment of "geeky themed cookie cutters," and Holmes and Watson are included (based on the BBC's "Sherlock" series). There's a Sherlock Profiles Cookie Cutter Set (\$7.00), and a Sherlock Portraits Cookie Cutter Set (\$10.00) <www.warpzoneprints.com>.
484. The Wessex Press' conference "From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond" at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 12-14 went quite well, by all accounts. See the blog at <www.tinyurl.com/qbyqj34> for details on the festivities, and Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog for longer reports by Tim Greer, Ann Margaret Lewis, and Ray Betzner <www.ihearofsherlock.com>.
485. The Barbican Centre in London says it "exists to inspire people to discover and love the arts," and it has a wonderful series of "Landmark silent films about the world's greatest detective" next year: they'll screen Eille Norwood's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1921) on Feb. 15, three short films from his series for Stoll (1921-1923) on Mar. 8, and his "The Sign of Four" (1923) on Mar. 29. Their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/owkf24p>.
486. Hayakawa Shobo, one of Japan's leading publishers of mysteries, has a cafeteria called Christie on the ground floor of their building; it's named for one of their authors, of course, but occasionally it is renamed for temporary exhibitions honoring other authors, and this year it was the Pub Sherlock Holmes from July 30 to Aug. 29, when because it was so popular, it was extended to Sept. 12. Mitch Higurashi advised them on the exhibition, the food menu and cocktails, and items offered for sale; there's a colorful report on the Pub at the Dramafever web-site <www.tinyurl.com/q9zj2jt>.
487. Derham Groves, who teaches architecture at the University of Melbourne set his students the task of designing a Conan Doyle Mystery Theatre last year, and the results of his students' work have been published as SPARKS 4; the 106-page booklet has the details of the assignment, and photographs of the imaginative results. Derham <derham@unimelb.edu.au> will be happy to send you a copy of the booklet.
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488. Sep 14 #8 THE PHILOSOPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Philip Tallon and David Baggett (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2012; 206 pp., \$40.00), is part of the Press' "The Philosophy of Popular Culture" series; the academic articles range from Dorothy L. Sayers' "Aristotle on Detective Fiction" to Andrew Terjesen's "Was It Morally Wrong to Kill Off Sherlock Holmes?", with some interesting stops along the way.
489. L.A. Theatre Works recorded "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) in June (Aug 14 #7), with Seamus Dever as Holmes and Geoffrey Arend as Watson, and it's now available on two CDs (\$29.99) or as a download (\$4.99) at <www.store.latw.org>. It's an energetic, interesting, and amusing production. The set includes a 10-minute "live audience talkback" with Les Klinger; there will be a national broadcast on Oct. 25, when they also will stream the show at their web-site; details at <www.latw.org/radio.html>.

490. And as usual, there's theater on-going and upcoming: The Red Monkey Theater Group will present "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (a new dramatization by Tal Aviezer), at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y., Oct. 4-18 <www.redmonkeytheater.org>.
491. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is running at the McLean Community Center in McLean, Va., through Oct. 12 <www.mcleanplayers.org>. It also will be produced at the Boathouse Theatre in Blenheim, New Zealand, Nov. 27-Dec. 6 <www.boathousetheatre.co.nz>, and at the Carpenter Square Theatre in Oklahoma City, from Nov. 28 through Dec. 20 <www.carpentersquare.com>.
492. "Sherlock Holmes" (a new dramatization by Jeff Sanders) is playing at the Northwest Children's Theater in Portland, Ore., through Oct. 26; their web-site's at <www.nwcts.org>.
493. "Holmes and Watson: A Scandal in Bohemia and The Final Problem" (dramatized by Terry McCabe) will be performed at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Nov. 7-Dec. 14 <www.citylit.org>.
494. C. P. Stancich's new play "Sherlock Holmes: Assassins at Sea" will be performed at Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., Nov. 14-23 <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>.
495. Craig Hewlett's pantomime "Young Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Dick Whittington's Cat" is scheduled by Morpheus Theatre in Calgary, Alta., Dec. 5-14 <www.morpheustheatre.ca>.
496. Jamie L. Robledo's "Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., Mar. 6-15, 2015 <www.dorsetplayers.org>.
497. Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" will be performed at the Spokane Civic Theater in Spokane, Wash., Apr. 10 to 26, 2015 <www.spokanecivictheater.com>.
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498. Oct 14 #1: "Alpine Adventures: Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland" was delightful; the Reichenbach Irregulars presented a splendid conference in Davos last month <www.tinyurl.com/lzvxxqk>, and provided a welcome excuse for sightseeing. My first visit to Switzerland was in 1966, to attend the party that Adrian Conan Doyle gave to inaugurate the Château de Lucens, and this time I was able to see much more, including both Reichenbach Falls, spectacular scenery, and both Sherlock Holmes Museums.
499. And yes, there are two Reichenbach Falls, one of them where Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty met for the last time, and the other at Giessbach, where Jeremy Brett battled Eric Porter in the Granada series. As for the two Sherlock Holmes Museums, they are both delightful: one is in Meiringen <www.sherlockholmes.ch>, and the other in Lucens <www.tinyurl.com/n2atqwx>, where one can view the sitting-room formerly at the Château as well as some fascinating relics of Conan Doyle and his family.
500. This year's Sherlock Holmes Society of London's Christmas Card is as usual both interesting colorful, showing a poster for the first London production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes"; you can see an image and order the card at <www.tinyurl.com/nveom62>
501. IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus, 2014; 260 pp., \$24.95), is a welcome sequel to their earlier anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (Aug 11 #2), again with stories that were "inspired by the Holmes Canon" and that range from the Victorian era to very modern times, with Michael Dirda's "By Any Other Name" well worth the price of admission.
502. The Mysterious Bookshop is publishing a limited edition of IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, specially bound and signed by all contributors; \$150.00 for the numbered edition <www.tinyurl.com/mlaghw4>. A more expensive lettered edition is already sold out.
503. Prose 'n Cons, a new quarterly edited by Stephanie Hoover "for fans of mystery, crime, and suspense," costs \$14.00 per year (digital)/\$29.00 per year (print and digital); the 38-page first issue (fall/winter 2014) includes an article by E.J. Wagner ("The Field of Forensic Science...and What We Must Do to Improve It"), an interview with Ian Kern about The Mysterious Bookshop <www.prose-n-cons.com> (Box 4921, Harrisburg, PA 17111).
504. "221B Baker Street: Fictional Evaluation" is an interesting estimation by Natalie Grigson of the price of Sherlock Holmes' apartment if it were offered for sale today <www.tinyurl.com/mtqu88f>. £1,691,028, in case you're in the market, and she explains why.
505. Michelle Spring and Laurie R. King, both quite successful authors (Spring is British and King is American), have edited CRIME AND THRILLER WRITING: A WRITERS' & ARTISTS' COMPANION (London: Bloomsbury, 2013; 279 pp., \$25.95); it's an interesting and useful guide that they describe as "a collection of Things We Wish We'd Known When We Started," and it includes both their own suggestions and commentary by 26 guest contributors.
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506. Oct 14 #2: Further to the items on metal plates apparently created in 1940 by way of celebrating Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, displayed by Javier Doria during the birthday festivities in New York (Feb 13 #5 and May 13 #4): two of the plates were offered at Heritage Auctions in Beverly Hills on Oct. 8, estimated at \$9,200-\$13,800, and sold for \$7,187.50 each (including the buyer's premium). There are images and descriptions of the plates at the Heritage Auctions web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kooucgs> and <www.tinyurl.com/nejtllj>. A third plate was sold to a private collector last year.
507. "Sherlock Holmes Character Held on Forgery Charge" was the headline on the story at the KOIN-TV web-site on Sept. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/mequlw9> about Quentin G. Stanhope, who was being held in Portland, Ore., on first-degree forgery, first-degree theft, and identity theft charges. Quentin G. Stanhope is a "spy character in a Sherlock Holmes book," the story explained, but didn't say which Sherlock Holmes book. It didn't take authorities long to identify the perpetrator as Gerard Marcel Beaudoin III, who had been using the Stanhope alias since 2005. A story in the Lincoln County Dispatch (Sept. 16) noted that a large collection of Sherlock Holmes literature was found in Beaudoin's home and office. Beaudoin is now being held in Lincoln City jail on \$2 million bond.
508. The third Sherlock Seattle Convention will be held at the Broadway Performance Center in Seattle, Jan. 9-11 <www.sherlock-seattle.org>; the guest of honor, mentalist Joe Riggs (known as "The Real Sherlock Holmes"), has his own web-site at <www.theworldofjoeriggs.com>.
509. Reported: Leslie S. Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED H. P. LOVECRAFT (New York: Liveright, 2014; 928 pp., \$39.95); Lovecraft was a fine writer of weird and supernatural fiction, as well as a friend of August Derleth and an admirer of Sherlock Holmes. Neil Gaiman has suggested that "Annotator Les Klinger is the man you want to have by your side, as you explore the Lovecraftian Darkness."
510. Donald A. Redmond ("Good Old Index") died on Oct. 22. Described by his son Chris as a library scientist, Meccano genius, churchman, and family patriarch, Don was the author of SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SOURCES (1982) and SHERLOCK HOLMES AMONG THE PIRATES (1990), and for many years prepared the annual indexes for The Baker Street Journal. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969, and their Two-Shilling Award in 1994.
511. If you are still wondering which Sherlock Holmes book Quentin G. Stanhope can be found in, there actually are four, although the character does not have a middle initial. Stanhope is a British spy in four of Carole Nelson Douglas' "Irene Adler" novels, appearing first in IRENE AT LARGE (1992).
512. Curtis Armstrong's fans will recall that he quoted from the Canon (as God's scribe Metatron) in the "Meta Fiction" episode of the CW series "Supernatural" (Apr 14 #2). He guest-starred again in the "Reichenbach" episode on Oct. 14, but hopes that the episode title promised Sherlockian

content were not fulfilled. Curtis explains that "the author of the script had read an article which mentioned that I was a BSI, and put it in as a private joke."

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513. Oct 14 #3: Some years ago (Jun 11 #5) The Mysterious Press and Open Road launched MysteriousPress.com, offering a long list of new and classic crime, mystery, suspense, and espionage. The Mysterious Press.com Classic list includes the first eight volumes of the Canon, with a new introduction by Otto Penzler aimed at very casual readers; it's the same introduction in each volume. Go to <www.tinyurl.com/new38aw> to see all of the 44 titles now available in the series.
514. Irwin F. Deutsch ("The Intricate Matter from Marseilles") died on Sept. 8. He wrote a Letter to Baker Street at the age of 15, published in the Baker Street Journal in 1948, founded The Reigate Squires of Scarsdale, N.Y., and went on to be a lawyer in Washington and New York before moving to Florida. Irv received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1962.
515. A (non-Sherlockian) watercolour by Sidney Paget of "figures on a path" will be offered at auction on Nov. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/pez69f3>.
516. The Museum of London's exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" opened on Oct. 17; there was a lot of publicity in the press and on television for the first major Sherlock Holmes exhibition in London since the Festival of Britain in 1951, and the new exhibition offers a chance to view some wonderful things. Randall Stock offers an overview at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qbvql43>, with links to video and recommended news articles, and the Museum has its own web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/mj3nld>. The exhibition is open through Apr. 12, and the Museum's shop <www.museumoflondonshop.co.uk> offers a wide range of Sherlockian merchandise.
517. "Start the Week" is a 45-minute series broadcast by BBC Radio 4; their program "Crime Stories and Ghost Stories" (Oct. 13) featured a panel that included Alex Werner (Head of the Museum of London's History Collections; you can listen to the broadcast at <www.tinyurl.com/opoo3nv>.
518. BBC Radio 4 Extra is celebrating the exhibition with "The Holmes Service" a (a series of broadcasts on Saturdays from Oct. 18 to Nov. 15, featuring repeats of dramatizations and documentaries); they will also be available for listening on-line <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p028l4f2>. Other Sherlockian and Doylean programs will be found in the series "In Search of Sherlock" at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0285193>.
519. If you're wondering about the Sherlock Holmes exhibition during the Festival of Britain in 1951 was like, a delightful 3-minute video can be seen at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/nu458so>; you can see Denis Conan Doyle and Arthur Wontner, and Jean Conan Doyle (in glasses, behind the left shoulder of the Mayor of Marylebone).
520. "Sherlock Holmes, Unlikely Style Icon" is the title of an article spotted by Alice Wright in The Atlantic (Oct. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/nfy4xuh>, with discussion of the many ways Holmes has influenced (and continues to influence) fashion, with links to articles in other magazines, comments on Watson's wardrobe (well, Lucy Liu's wardrobe), and an interesting and colorful 15-minute video about the new Sherlock Holmes tweed commissioned by the Museum of London.
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521. Oct 14 #4: "The Sting of Death" (1955), a one-hour dramatization for television of H. F. Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY that featured Boris Karloff as Mr. Mycroft, is included in the three-DVD set SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION, and it's now, spotted by Keith Stump and reported by Michael Halm, also available on-line at <www.hulu.com/watch/121619>.
522. Daniel P. Griffin ("General de Merville") died on Apr. 25, 2012. He was a product marketing manager in the Norden Division of United Aircraft and pioneered in the field of analog to digital conversion. He contributed to our literature, was appointed Ambassador Cockroach in the Worshipful Company of Ailing Cockroaches (a literary society that honored Guy Gilpatrick's "Glencannon" series), and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1968.
523. The University of Nebraska at Omaha has issued a call for papers for "Lippincott's Legacy" (a literary conference honoring the 125th anniversary of the publication of "The Sign of the Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" scheduled for May 29-31; it's open to academicians and enthusiasts, and the deadline for submissions is Feb. 20; additional information about the conference is available at <www.lippincottlegacy.org>.
524. Rodney A. Mannion ("Shoscombe Old Place") died on Sept. 23, 2013. He was a physician, and entered the world of Sherlockians thanks to one of his patients, Jay Finley Christ. A member of Hugo's Companions and The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic), Dr. Mannion was awarded his Investiture by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969.
525. William Gillette's silent film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) has long been considered the Holy Grail for Sherlockians, and at long last it has been discovered: a nitrate dupe negative, with French flash titles and color annotations, was found in the vaults of the Cinémathèque française, and it is now being restored in collaboration with the San Francisco Silent Film Festival. Russell Merritt reports that there are mysteries yet to be solved, including how and when the film got to France (since trans-Atlantic shipping was at a minimum during the war), and whether it actually was shown in France (at the end of one reel there's an announcement that the film was to be shown as a four-part weekly serial. The European premiere will be at a film festival in Paris in January, and the American premiere (with English titles) will be at a film festival in San Francisco in May).
526. The Green Bag, a law journal based in Washington, publishes an annual "Almanac & Reader" of good legal writing, each year with additional material. The theme for the additional material in 2015 will be "The Norwood Builder" and they have issued a call for annotations on the story, with a deadline of Dec. 24. Details at <www.greenbag.org/callNBldr.pdf>.
527. The new miniature-book edition of Conan Doyle's parody "How Watson Learned the Trick" (Sep 14 #3) is a delightful production, even though it's not a true facsimile: to avoid over-using the original book and damaging it, just enough pages were scanned to capture all of the letters needed, and a special font was created to produce the new miniature book. Randall Stock has prepared an excellent web-page on both the original and the new editions at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/n9369dr>.
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528. Oct 14 #5: Arthur Morrison created Martin Hewitt to fill the gap created in the pages of The Strand Magazine after Holmes and Moriarty perished at the Reichenbach; Hewitt, the first of many "rivals of Sherlock Holmes," appeared in 25 stories published in the Strand, Windsor Magazine, and London Magazine. David Marcum has concluded that Hewitt actually was Sherlock Holmes, beginning his career in 1876, has "Holmes-ed" and edited the stories in three volumes of SHERLOCK HOLMES IN MONTAGUE STREET (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 237/243/241 pp., \$16.95 per volume); it's an interesting proposition, and he has carried it out well. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
529. More from MX: Derrick Belanger has edited two volumes of A STUDY IN TERROR: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S REVOLUTIONARY STORIES OF FEAR AND THE SUPERNATURAL (2014; 274+288 pp., \$16.95 each); the non-Sherlockian stories, with interesting introductions and commentary (including Chuck Davis on "Aviation and the Horror of the Heights"; the editor on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Mary Celeste Mystery" and "The Making of the Modern Mummy"; and Joel K. Jensen on "Horror and The Mystery of Cloomber").

530. Petr Macek's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE COLD-SERVED REVENGE* (2014; 227 pp., \$16.95) opened with Watson summoned by Mrs. Hudson to Fulworth to provide medical assistance to Holmes, who has suffered a coronary; he recovers, and they are launched on an investigation that takes them from Venice to Scotland in pursuit of a mysterious villain.
531. Charles Press has edited *A BEDSIDE BOOK OF EARLY SHERLOCKIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES* (2014; 352 pp., \$19.95), an anthology that offers a welcome selection from the almost 400 parodies and pastiches published during Conan Doyle's life. Sherlockians today use the word "pastiche" to include a multitude of sins: actual pastiches, and parodies, and homages. This anthology shows how much fun people had with Sherlock Holmes, from 1891 onward.
532. David Ruffle's *HOLMES AND WATSON: END PEACE* (2012; 119 pp., \$9.95) presents Watson in 1929, in hospital and at the end of his life, in a warm and reminiscent conversation with Holmes; it's a nice concept, well written. Geri Schear's *A BIASED JUDGEMENT: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES DIARIES: 1897* (2014; 319 pp., \$18.95) is Holmes' own account of a complicated case that involves a dire threat to the Empire, and some surprises; the attempt to capture the voice of Holmes is quite successful. Daniel D. Victor's *THE FINAL PAGE OF BAKER STREET* (2014; 229 pp., \$14.95) has a young Raymond Chandler serving as Billy, and assisting Holmes and Watson in solving a mystery in 1903.
533. Thomas M. Russo ("The Boscombe Valley Mystery") died on Apr. 18. He had a 40-year career in the U.S. Air Force and was a member of the P.O.B.O.B. Motorcycle Club, Hugo's Companions, and The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.
534. The Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at the Museum of London isn't the only literary attraction in London at the moment: the British Library's "Terror and Wonder: The Gothic Imagination" is running through Jan. 20. Billed as "the UK's biggest ever Gothic exhibition," it traces the history of the Gothic movement over 250 years <www.tinyurl.com/nveom62>; one of the 200 objects on display is a vampire-slaying kit.
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535. Oct 14 #6: Sherlock Holmes' 161st birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 9, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.
536. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street); the speaker will be Alan Bradley, co-author of *MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET* (2004), the thoroughly controversial "truth about Sherlock Holmes", and the author of the award-winning "Flavia de Luce" series <www.flaviadeluce.com>; the sixth volume (*THE DEAD IN THEIR VAULTED ARCHES*) was published last January. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you're advised to reserve early (details below); tickets won't be sold at the door.
537. The Baker Street Babes invite one and all to their "Daintiest (Bee) Under Your Bonnet Charity Ball/Sussex Flapper Party" which starts at 8:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South), offering a buffet dinner, cash bar, live music, prizes, toasts, and entertainment, with formal attire and Sherlockian costume strongly encouraged. The cost is \$45.00, and proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project. More information is available from Lyndsay Faye <lyndsay@bakerstreetbabes.com> and at the Babe's web-site at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>.
538. Otto Penzler's traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
539. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Checks can be sent to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.
540. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); \$85.00 (checks or PayPal), and details are available from Christopher Zordan (184 Blew Court, East Brunswick, NJ 08816) <gaslightgal@gmail.com>; information about the Gala is at <www.gaslightgalnyc.wordpress.com>.
541. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.
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542. Oct 14 #7: On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite (on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel at 45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; you can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> for information about dealers' tables.
543. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:15 am, with Wodehousean entertainment that will include the premier performance of "The Riddle of the Refurbished Room". Additional information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu>.
544. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:15 to 4:15 in the grand ballroom on the 22nd floor of the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street from just north of Grand Central Station); there will be a cocktail-party buffet and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks), and the traditional (and perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 29 or at the door. A warning for drivers: the Yale Club block of Vanderbilt Avenue is only one lane only due to construction, and one-way only northbound.
545. For those who wish to continue partying, Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub in a private room on the second floor (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); additional details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <cckegley@socal.rr.com>.
546. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold their informal buffet brunch on Sunday, at a venue yet to be determined; it's open to all, and more information will be available in the next issue of this newsletter.
547. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala on Friday, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.

548. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$179.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 22. Guest cards for the Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians, and it's a fine venue for socializing and relaxing.
549. And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> after Nov. 8 and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.
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550. Oct 14 #8 Other hotels offer reasonable (according to New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.hotels.com>; you will be wise if you then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).
551. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
552. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. News about additional events will be found in next month's issue of this newsletter.
553. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson appear in a political advertisement supporting the North Dakota Clean Water, Wildlife, and Parks Amendment (aka Measure 5) that would amend the state constitution to earmark five percent of the state's oil extraction tax revenue for environmental protection. You will find arguments pro and con at Ballotpedia <www.tinyurl.com/ppd6y8c>, where all content must be "neutral, accurate, and verifiable," and you can watch the 1-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/lu39tdh>.
554. Sherlockians of a certain age fondly recall the appearance of Laura Lyons as Playboy's "Miss February 1976"; she now is Laura Aldridge, featured in New York magazine (Oct. 20) in Noreen Malone's article on "The View from a Centerfold" <www.tinyurl.com/kh7fa5g>.
555. Lloyd W. Brown Jr. died on Oct. 13. Bill was a professor of journalism at the University of South Carolina, a stalwart member of The Hansom Wheels, and the author of a long series of one-act radio plays, filled with broad humor and excellent puns, performed by the society and published in three volumes over the years as THE UNKNOWN SHERLOCK HOLMES.
556. Jennie C. Paton has noted that Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982) has been issued as a commercial DVD (\$30.99) with audio commentary by Baker, and an image gallery <www.tinyurl.com/o6grsky>. The DVD is from Australia, and in PAL format.
557. Finally, nicely in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for "the best Sherlock Holmes books and DVDs of the year" is on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.
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558. Nov 14 #1: There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 to 3:00, at the Churchill Tavern (45 East 28th Street); \$25.00 payable by cash or check at the door. The brunch is open to everyone, but reservations are requested: e-mail to <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.
559. The Supreme Court has denied the Conan Doyle Estate's petition asking them to consider the Estate's appeal of a lower court's decision that copyright protects only the characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still protected by copyright. The denial was not unexpected: the Supreme Court receives about 10,000 petitions each year and accepts fewer than 100 cases. You can read the documents in the case at <www.free-sherlock.com>. John Rabe interviewed Les Klinger for KPCC-FM's "Off-Ramp" on Nov. 3, and you can listen to a 6-minute audio at <www.tinyurl.com/q2klxlw>; look for the "Listen Now" button at the right.
560. The October issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist has Neil Bell's interesting article "'So Help Me God': Becoming a Victorian Policeman" (it wasn't all that easy to become a policeman in the 1880s), Adam Wood's kind remembrance of Camille Wolff (who died on Sept. 4, aged 102, and whose Grey House Books was a great resource for Sherlockian collectors), and Jon Rees' guest editorial "'Eighteen Out of Twelve Apostles Are Buried in Spain': The Problem with Ripper Relics" (with discussion of Russell Edwards' new book NAMING JACK THE RIPPER). Ripperologist is devoted to all aspects of Jack the Ripper (who is mentioned in Hornung's story); for information on how to subscribe, contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.
561. Sorry about that: the article on "The Field of Forensic Science...and What We Must Do to Improve It" in *Prose 'n Cons* (Oct 14 #1) was written by Stephanie Hoover.
562. There were rumors in 1991 of a Sherlock Holmes television series starring Stephen Fry as Holmes and Hugh Laurie as Watson, and a more valid report in 2004 of pilot script for a television series that never was produced, but of course it's well known that Hugh Laurie's performance as Gregory House was modeled after Holmes, and that Stephen Fry played Mycroft in the film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows". "Fry and Laurie Reunited" was a 69-minute program that was broadcast on cable television in Britain in 2010, and now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/p2fqarr>.
563. Reported: Michael Sims, The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker in Jan. 2011, has edited THE PHANTOM COACH (New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2014; 320 pp., \$17.00); it's subtitled "a connoisseur's collection of Victorian ghost stories," and includes Conan Doyle's "The Captain of the Pole-Star".
564. Congratulations (again) to Dan Stashower, who won an Anthony Award at Bouchercon for THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR (best critical or non-fiction work), making this his second hat trick (he also won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar and Malice Domestic's Agatha for the book). His first hat trick came in 2008, for ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS.
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565. Nov 14 #2: Arthur Conan Doyle lectured at the Norwich Free Academy in Connecticut in 1894, and he paid a return visit to Norwich on Nov. 1, impersonated by Jeff Bradway in an imaginative program arranged by The Men on the Tor. You can read more about the event (and see some video) at <www.tinyurl.com/lnzolfx> and <www.tinyurl.com/maxmx4x>.
566. Ian Fraser died on Oct. 31. He was a director, composer, and conductor for musicals on stage and television, winning 11 Emmy Awards, and he was musical supervisor for Ron Moody's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988).
567. It isn't often that a brief announcement in The Times results in worldwide headlines, but this one, published on Nov. 5, certainly did: "Forthcoming Marriages: Mr. B. T. Cumberbatch and Miss S. I. Hunter. The engagement is announced between Benedict, son of Wanda and Timothy Cumberbatch of

- London, and Sophie, daughter of Katharine Hunter of Edinburgh and Charles Hunter of London." They were photographed together at a French Open tennis match in June <www.tinyurl.com/o4famgv>.
568. Thanks to the wonders of digitization, you can read Conan Doyle's interesting article on "Mr. Stevenson's Methods in Fiction" (published in The National Review, Jan. 1890, and reprinted in The Living Age (Feb. 15, 1890) at <www.tinyurl.com/mlkkmqn>.
569. "I just wish it could take selfies and sign autographs," said Benedict Cumberbatch, when he was unveiled at Madame Tussauds last month. His waxwork appearance was deas "premiere ready" by Tussauds.
570. Anthony Richards reports two new items from Baker Street Studios Limited: Roger Riccard's pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE CASE OF THE TWAIN PAPERS and J. P. Sperati's game A SHERLOCK HOLMES MONOPOLY. The publisher's web-site is at <www.baker-street-studios.com>.
571. BBC Radio 4 now makes its programs available on-line for four weeks, so you have a chance to listen to Sir Ian McKellen reading "The Valley of Fear" as abridged by Neville Teller in ten 15-minute episodes; the "Book at Bedtime" series began on Nov. 10 <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04nrqsr>. BBC Radio 4 also broadcast Val McDermid reading from her new book FORENSICS: THE ANATOMY OF CRIME in five 10-minute episodes in their "Book of the Week" series beginning on Nov. 10 <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04nrh0s>.
572. People who have made presentations over the years at Bob Thomalen's "Autumn in Baker Street" gathering can now purchase CDs with video of their presentations for \$10.00 postpaid; contact Francine Kitts at <fkitts@aol.com>.
573. THE BOARDWALK, edited by Nancy Sakaduski (Lewes: Cat & Mouse Press, 2014; 223 pp., \$15.95), is an anthology of the winning stories from the Rehoboth Beach Reads Short Story Contest sponsored by Browseabout Books for fiction or non-fiction related to Rehoboth Beach in Delaware. Joseph Crossen won first place with "The Case of the Artist's Stain"; the artist Howard Pyle (who illustrated some of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories) spent many summers in Rehoboth Beach, and Holmes and Watson visit to solve a case of forgery. The publisher's at <www.catandmousepress.com>.
574. Nov 14 #3: Alan Rettig has reported a "Literary London Map" created by the graphic artist Dex in collaboration with interior designer Anna Burles: it's a graphic rendition of the city's literary history, with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson duly honored. Their shop is Run for the Hills <www.runforthehills.bigcartel.com>, and they also offer an imaginative "A Study in Sherlock".
575. Alan is the extremely helpful web-master for the Red Circle of Washington's web-site, where he has reported on his discovery of two Sherlockian quizzes at an on-line dating web-site called OkCupid that uses a math-based matching system to help you find other people who share your interests. You'll find the details in the Inner Circle at <www.redcircledc.org>.
576. The new movie "Paddington" is being promoted all over London with 50 life-size (3'6") statues of Paddington Bear, designed by celebrities. Benedict Cumberbatch's statue is, as might be expected installed near the Museum of London, home of the ongoing exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die". The statues will eventually be auctioned to benefit charity. Paddington Bear first appeared in 1958, and is featured in more than 20 books written by Michael Bond, and Paddington Bear has his own web-site at <www.paddington.com>.
577. The statues of Paddington Bear will be auctioned by Christie's on-line at their web-site from Dec. 10 to Jan. 15, with bids starting at £500; you can sign up for further information at <www.tinyurl.com/q7on235>.
578. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Mahony & Sons in Vancouver on Oct. 22, welcomed by members of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia. Our next meetings will be in 2015 in Denver on June 3, and Baltimore on Nov. 4.
579. Raphael Ravenscroft died on Oct. 19. He played the saxophone solo on the original 1978 track of Gerry Rafferty's "Baker Street" and reportedly was paid only £27 for the session, with a check that bounced. Ravenscroft went on to work with icons such as Pink Floyd, Abba, and Marvin Gaye; in 2011 he recorded a tribute "Forgiveness" to commemorate Rafferty's funeral. Christopher Roden reported in 2000 that he had heard from Rafferty that he had titled the song in reference to the street in London.
580. Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer who alleged that Russian state officials had carried out large-scale theft, died in prison in Moscow in 2009 after being held without trial for eleven months <www.tinyurl.com/yg6735m>; his death received world-wide publicity, and eventually resulted in enactment of the Magnitsky Act in the U.S., which imposed sanctions on Russian officials believed to be responsible for his death <www.tinyurl.com/c7s3gs9>. Alexander Orlov reports a 25-minute documentary ("The Letter M") narrated by Vasily Livanov (who won high praise as Sherlock Holmes in the 1979-1986 Russian television series); the "M" is Moriarty, and the video presents arguments for a complicated world-wide conspiracy managed by William Browder (a noted critic of Vladimir Putin). There's a voice-over translation into English, and you can the video at <www.tinyurl.com/qyw452k>.
581. Nov 14 #4: The "Books About Town" project (May 14 #5) that created trails of benches shaped as open books in London was quite successful, raising £251,000 for the National Literary Trust when the BookBenches were auctioned on Oct. 7; the highest bid for a bench was £9,500 (for Jeeves and Wooster). The Sherlock Holmes BookBench brought £4,000. There's a project web-site at <www.booksabouttown.org.uk>.
582. Sir Sidney Chapman died on Oct. 9. He was a Tory member of parliament for many years, and his obituary in The Times noted that he could claim to have planted the seed that led to the growing of more than 20 million trees in Britain over five decades, and that he had sponsored the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London in the House of Commons, adding that "many deerstalkers were in evidence," and that "by the end of the evening a pall of pipe smoke would envelop the tables."
583. Just the thing for your favorite Sherlockian: the Valextra Sherlock Holmes Bag. Valextra, based in Milan offers a redesigned briefcase protected by a patented three-dial safe-style lock, for only £3,900; there's a nice photograph at the Financial Times' web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nfqnbvp>.
584. There's an addition to the list of Sherlock Holmes/Doctor Who crossovers: "Exterminentry" is the title of the artwork on a mug created by Carol Mallas that shows Doctor Who's Daleks as Holmes and Watson; it's available (\$11.46 plus shipping from the U.K.) at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/lnlpd2f>.
585. The BBC Books series of tie-in editions of the Canon has now reached seven volumes, each with "Sherlock" cover art and introductions that are both interesting and entertaining (£4.99 each): the introductions are by Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman, Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat, and Steve Thompson (who has written three episodes). It's nice to see the BBC using the television series to attract readers to the original stories. Still to come: THE VALLEY OF FEAR and THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.
586. An alert for Los Angelenos: Les Klinger will be featured at a book-reading and signing for IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES at Contrapuntal Hall in Los Angeles on Dec. 13; tea, cookies, and champagne. It's free, but reservations are recommended. Details at <www.lesklingsigning.bpt.me>.
587. Steve Tribe offers the background and inside story of the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, complete with interviews with the principals, color photographs on every page, images of deleted scenes, and much more, in SHERLOCK: CHRONICLES (London: BBC Books, 2014; 320 pp., £25.00); it's a

- splendid book, and a grand way to understand and how much enthusiasm, and hard work, the creators, cast, and crew have brought to the series, and why it is so popular. Recommended.
588. Production is underway on ITV's three-part dramatization of Julian Barnes' novel *ARTHUR & GEORGE* (May 14 #3). The cast includes Martin Clunes as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Arsher Ali as George Edalji, and Hattie Morahan as Jean Leckie, and the Daily Mail ran a story on Nov. 12 with colorful on-set photographs of Clunes in costume <www.tinyurl.com/nhravev>.
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589. Nov 14 #5: Daniel Smith's excellent *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION: AN ELEMENTARY GUIDE*, first published in 2009 (Feb 10 #4), now has a second edition (London: Aurum Press, 2014; 224 pp., £16.99/\$27.99), brought up to date; it's an interesting, attractive, and useful book, with summaries for each of the stories, essays on Conan Doyle, Holmes, and the Canon, interviews with actors and authors, and splendid artwork and illustrations, many in full color. It's nicely done indeed, and suitable for both beginners and old hands. Recommended.
590. Here's the logo for Shopping Sherlock, an on-line shopping app that "instantly finds the best deals and lowest prices on millions of products"; the app is free, but there's also a system of usage and team commissions if you want to become an affiliate and persuade others to be affiliates, so it's a shopping pyramid scheme. Details at <www.shoppingsherlock.com>.
591. William Bruce Briggs died on June 11. Bill was an engineer, a sports fan, and an enthusiastic Sherlockian, presiding over McMurdo's Camp, which was both a Sherlockian society and an extensive and imaginative web-site that's still live and well worth exploring <www.mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com>.
592. David Stuart Davies will be one of the speakers (on "221B Baker Street") at the Crime Writers Festival in New Delhi, Jan. 17-18; their web-site is at <www.crimewritersfestival.com>.
593. Chris Caswell, former owner of the Baker Street Emporium, now offers a variety of Sherlockiana at Sherlock's Home at Etsy, one of his items being an (empty) bottle of Sherlock's Claret commissioned by the Emporium in 1995; <www.tinyurl.com/kxvzxba>. The magic word "Scuttlebutt" will get you a 10% discount.
594. People who buy British books should keep the Book Depository in mind: owned by Amazon, it offers Amazon-style discounts and free shipping to the U.S., and this is quite useful for books like Steve Tribe's *SHERLOCK: CHRONICLES* (Nov 14 #4), which so far doesn't have an American edition. See for yourself at <www.bookdepository.com>.
595. Evy Herzog reports that the Easton Press is offering a leather-bound signed edition of Nicholas Meyer's *THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION* for \$99.00; details at <www.tinyurl.com/k7vqokq>. You can search for [sherlock holmes] to see other Sherlockian titles.
596. *WHITE FIRE*, by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2013; 368 pp., \$27.00), is the seventh in their series of suspense novels about FBI special agent Pendergast; it begins with their account of the dinner at which Arthur Conan Doyle met Oscar Wilde, proceeds to modern-day Colorado, and involves (among other things) a search for the manuscript of the long-lost last Sherlock Holmes story.
597. The Spanish artist Marco Navas is offering a "Sherlockians" collection of twelve 7-cm figurines of Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and others from the Canon, hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted for €35.00 each; details at <www.marconavas.com> or by e-mail <marconavas@telecable.es>.
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598. Nov 14 #6: And there's plenty of theatrics to consider: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot; or Holmes for the Holidays" is being performed at the Barn Community Playhouse in Tillamook, Ore., through Dec. 6; their web-site's at <www.tillamooktheater.com>. And at the Rochester Repertory Theatre, Rochester, Minn., through Dec. 6 <www.rochesterrep.org>, at the Vertigo Theatre, Calgary, Alta., through Dec. 7 <www.vertigotheatre.com>, at the Knoxville Downtown, Knoxville, Tenn., through Dec. 14; their web-site is at <www.theatreknoxville.com>. Also at the Santa Paula Theater Center, Santa Paula, Calif., until Dec. 21 <www.santapaulatheatercenter.org> and the Live Theatre Workshop, Tucson, Ariz., through Dec. 28 <www.livetheatreworkshop.org>. It's also coming up at TheatreWorks, Milford, Conn., Dec. 5-Jan. 3 <www.theatreworks.us>, and at Community Players, Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 11-14 <www.beatricecommunityplayers.com>.
599. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is being performed at the Lower Columbia College's Rose Center in Longview, Wash., through Dec. 6 <www.lcc.ctc.edu>. And it's scheduled at the Doris Harper-White Community Playhouse in Flagstaff, Ariz., Jan. 30-Feb. 15, 2015 <www.theatrikos.com>.
600. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is being produced at the Repertory East Playhouse in Santa Clarita, Calif., through Dec. 13 <www.repeastplayhouse.org>.
601. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is being performed at the Austin Playhouse in Austin, Texas, through Dec. 21; their web-site's at <www.austinplayhouse.com>.
602. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is playing at the Chemainus Theatre Festival in Chemainus, B.C., through Dec. 22 <www.chemainustheatrefestival.ca>.
603. Bob and Barry Cryer's new play "Mrs. Hudson's Christmas Corker" is set in the kitchen at 221B Baker Street, and will be presented at Wilton's Music Hall in London, Dec. 2-31 <www.wiltons.org.uk>. The subtitled of the play is "Your Goose Is Cooked, Mr. Holmes..."
604. "Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" (the new play-reading series curated and introduced by Les Klinger) will reprise Bonnie MacBird's version of "The Blue Carbuncle" at the Contrapuntal Performance Hall in Brentwood (Los Angeles) on Dec. 6 and 7 <www.brownpapertickets.com/event/940506>.
605. "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" will be performed at the Owen Street Community Arts Centre in Atherstone (Warwickshire), Dec. 11-12; presented by the Leading Players, written by R. Sandland and J. Kitchen, and adapted by Dawn Teagles <www.oscacentre.co.uk>.
606. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will have its second production at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, N.J., Mar. 10-29, 2015 <www.mccarter.org>.
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607. Dec 14 #1: Breaking news (as CNN and other networks like to proclaim): The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have announced that their ASH Wednesday dinner at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 7, will be held at Annie Moore's (50 East 43rd Street, between Madison and Vanderbilt Avenues). O'Casey's, established in 1974 and where the ASH have met for years, has abruptly closed.
608. Scott Monty advises on "How to Get the Most Out of the #BSI Weekend" at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/l3ekamc>, offering a "series of tips for the veteran attendees and the newbies alike." And yes, there's a #BSIWeekend hashtag that people who understand what hashtags are can follow "to get real-time updates on the weekend festivities on the social network of their choice." Oh for the days when people called the # an octothorpe.
609. Welcome news for people who don't read Swedish: Mattias Boström has reported that the German publisher Bertelsmann has purchased translation rights for his *FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK [FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK]* (Aug 13 #4) and that a German translation is underway. And there are plans for a translation into English with publication possible in 2016.

610. TopFoto <www.topfoto.co.uk> is a British agency that offers access to some three and a half million images, many of them quite interesting; search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] to see what's available.
611. Alexander Orlov has reported "The Return of Mukhtar", a Russian 45-minute television series (2007) about a police investigation team that includes a brave and loyal dog (Mukhtar); one of the episodes was called "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and Alexander reports many Sherlockian allusions in the program, which you can view (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/n8d2nqr>.
612. "He was always Sherlock Holmes-ian. He was Basil Rathbone. In other words he was always musing about something." Adam West, in an interview reported by Digital Spy (Nov. 12), occasioned by the release of the Blu-ray set of "Batman: The Complete TV Series".
613. The Museum of London has posted some nice video at YouTube, by way of publicizing their on-going exhibition <www.tinyurl.com/ns8s66n>, including an interesting three-minute "Sir Ian McKellen on Sherlock Holmes".
614. Bob Byrne presides over an interesting blog called "Black Gate: Adventures in Fantasy Literature" and casts his net widely, recently posting on "The Public Life of Sherlock Holmes: Solar Pons" <www.tinyurl.com/mjudnrk>, including a link to his Solar Pons web-site <www.solarpons.com>, where you'll find the latest (Nov. 2014) issue of The Solar Pons Gazette.
615. P. D. James died on Nov. 27. Highly regarded for her mystery novels featuring Chief Inspector Dalgleish, she also wrote science fiction, a sequel to Jane Austen's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, an introduction to the Random House/Vintage Books edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (2009), and an interesting chapter about "The Tenant of 221B Baker Street and the Parish Priest from Cobhole in Essex" in her TALKING ABOUT DETECTIVE FICTION (2009).

616. Dec 14 #2: Graham Moore's pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (Nov 10 #8), published in Britain as THE HOLMES AFFAIR (Feb 11 #1), was a N.Y. Times best seller; if you have been wondering what he has been doing since then, he has written the screenplay for "The Imitation Game" (the new film that stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Alan Turing).
617. Heuer Publishing <www.hitplays.com> offers scripts of four Sherlock Holmes plays. Three of them are two-act plays by C. P. Stancich: "Sherlock Holmes and the Devil of Doomsmoor" (2008), "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" (2010), and "Sherlock Holmes: John Watson's Body" (2012); \$7.50 each. And Roy C. Booth's 10-minute one-act play "The Unmasking of Sherlock Holmes" (2007) can be read without charge at their web-site.
618. Tom Tierney died on July 12. Credited in his N.Y. Times obituary as having almost single-handedly revived the lost art of paper-doll making, he created more than 400 paper-dolls books, including a delightful SHERLOCK HOLMES PAPER DOLLS (2009); it's still in print and available at <www.amazon.com>.
619. Col. Percy H. Fawcett, who met Conan Doyle in 1910 and then disappeared into the Amazon jungle, is discussed by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD (1996) and David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (2009); Radio Times reported earlier this year that Benedict Cumberbatch will star in the film based on Grann's book, with production scheduled to begin early next year in Belfast.
620. Stu Shiffman died on Nov. 26. He was an inspired artist who contributed to the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and of science fiction, an enthusiastic member of The Sound of the Baskervilles in Seattle, and for many years a frequent poster to The Hounds of the Internet, for whom he created an impressive logo <www.sherlockian.net/hounds>.
621. Holmes on the Range (previously known as The Desert Prospectors of Arizona) have created a magnifying-glass tie/lapel pin for the society with Sherlock Holmes' initials on the handle; it's 20 mm long and available to everyone for \$5.00 postpaid (or in exchange for a pin from another society). Bob StClair <bobstclair@gmail.com> will be happy to provide more information.
622. Further to the report (Mar 11 #6) that the Roundabout Theatre Company production of Cole Porter's musical "Anything Goes" includes a scene in which the hero, trying to escape capture aboard ship, appears on deck in disguise with Inverness, deerstalker, calabash pipe, and an absurd beard, there is video of the entire show at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/m3ajjtx>; the 2-minute Sherlockian scene stars at 57:13.
623. The Scottish Book Trust celebrated Book Week Scotland last month by asking people to vote in an on-line poll for the nation's favorite literary character, and the winner was Francis Crawford of Lymond, followed by Begbie, Detective Inspector Rebus, and then Sherlock Holmes. Frances Crawford appears in the late Dorothy Dunnett's Lymond Chronicles, and it is possible that there was a campaign by fans of Crawford, who was described as an exile, a scholar, a soldier, a musician, a master of disguise, an outlaw, and a noble, in six novels set in 16th-century Europe.

624. Dec 14 #3: George Sturm ("Neil Gibson") died on Nov. 25. He was a special agent for the FBI, and enthusiastic about both Sherlock Holmes and the Civil War, writing for The Baker Street Journal about a Civil War antecedent for the Porlock cipher. George also was a dedicated member of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.
625. Kelvin I. Jones has written and published a long list of books and articles about Sherlock Holmes, and about horror, supernatural, and crime, over the years, and many of them are available now as e-books. There are descriptions and much more at his web-site <www.cunningcrimebooks.co.uk>.
626. Ashvin Rajan reports that there's a biography of Prof. Moriarty on-line in the MacTutor History of Mathematics Archive <www.tinyurl.com/pgcqk4v>, and (thanks to the wonders of digitization) you can read H. W. Gould's article "The Case of the Strange Binomial Identities of Professor Moriarty" (1972) <www.tinyurl.com/myywbcl>, and Bradley E. Schaefer's article on "Sherlock Holmes and Some Astronomical Connections" (1993) <www.tinyurl.com/ox3tjo3>.
627. Sherlock to the rescue: KLM's commercial shows how they use a dog detective to find owners of forgotten items left on planes <www.tinyurl.com/mxd22s3>. The commercial was spotted by Eric Blau, but (alas) it's only a commercial: KLM doesn't really have a dog who really does that.
628. The late John Ruyle, a delightful humorist and a skilled printer who wrote, printed, bound, and published a long series of parodies that featuring Turlock Loams and Dr. Fatso, also presided over the Quaker Street Irregulars and is sadly missed. THE CANON OF TURLOCK HOLMES, with commentary by Ray and Greta de Groat and an introduction by Michael Kean, offers a nice look at John's delightful work, and it has been published by George Vanderburgh (203; 262 pp., \$30.00). The publisher's address is Box 50, R.R.4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.
629. "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me" is an amusing series broadcast by National Public Radio, and Samantha Wolov reports that the program that aired on Nov. 8 was partly Sherlockian: "Elementary, My Dear (Dale) Watson" featured country singer Dale Watson answering questions about Sherlock Holmes. You can listen to the program at <www.tinyurl.com/l6hl7cz>.
630. The California Artists Radio Theatre was founded more than 50 years ago by Peggy Webber, who worked with Rathbone and Bruce on their old radio series, and adapted, produced, and directed the CART productions of Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" and Conan Doyle's story "Selecting a Ghost" Jul

- 05 #1). Those recordings, and many other non-Sherlockian productions, are available on CDs and as downloads at their web-site <www.cartradio.com>.
631. Alexander Orlov has reported that Yuri Grymov's dramatization of "The Lost World" is now playing in Moscow (in Russian), and it's grand that the Internet makes both information and a video preview so easily available: the URLs are <www.tinyurl.com/jwkrw4w> and <www.tinyurl.com/maytw86>. Google Translate will help with the text. This isn't the first dramatization of the story: there's at least one other, by Nobby Dimon, and it was performed at the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch in 2003 <www.tinyurl.com/m6oej7a>.
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632. Dec 14 #4: Samuel M. Gerber ("The Final Problem") died on Jan. 9. He had a long career with the American Cyanamid Company, specializing in the chemistry and technology of dyes, and it was his enjoyment of Sherlock Holmes, he explained, that led to his interest in forensic chemistry. He lectured often on "Sherlock Holmes, Chemist" and edited CHEMISTRY AND CRIME: FROM SHERLOCK HOLMES TO TODAY'S COURTROOM (1983), and co-edited MORE CHEMISTRY AND CRIME: FROM MARSH ARSENIC TEST TO DNA PROFILE (1997). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.
633. The artist Charles Wysocki (1928-2002) specialized in Americana, and there is a web-site at <www.charleswysocki.com> that shows his work. His print "Hound of the Baskervilles" was published in 1997 (Sep 10 #7), and now is available as a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle (\$13.95).
634. Collectors may own one or both of the editions of THE BLUE CARBUNCLE published by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1948. Christopher Morley's introduction is delightful, and so is a discovery reported by William R. Cochran in the December issue of The Camden House Journal (published by The Occupants of the Empty House): a book dealer once offered a copy of the trade edition, noting that "A contemporary member of the BSI reveals, in a long inscription, that the BSI remaindered these volumes at \$1.00 each and he is thus sending them as Christmas cards." The inscription is dated in 1950, but the dealer didn't identify who it was wrote it. Does anyone have one of these Christmas-card copies?
635. Jerry Margolin spotted Sherlockian cover art on the reissue CD album "Has Anyone Here Seen Sigfried?" recorded by a progressive rock band called Pavlov's Dog in 1977 but not released officially until 2007; also available as MP3 downloads, the songs can be sampled at Amazon.
636. Arguments about the preservation of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, continue: the DFN Foundation plans to convert the house into a school (Sep 14 #6), but the BBC reported (Dec. 14) that English Heritage has said that a proposed extension might mean the building "no longer warranted its listed status," and the Victorian Society also has opposed the conversion. David Forbes-Nixon said in response that "we can do something very special to preserve the existing house," adding that "we can create the best special needs school in the south of England and it would be a wonderful site to do that." The BBC story <www.tinyurl.com/kguv8jf> includes a rendering of the house and the proposed extension.
637. The WCRS [Written Communications Radio Service] RadioStage presented original radio dramas for a radio reading service for the blind between 2000 and 2004, including "The Sherlock Holmes Assignment" (30 minutes). The program was written by Michael Elliott and David Binkley, and you can listen to it at <www.reallybadmovie.weebly.com/daves-radio-plays.html>.
638. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where; you can contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.
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639. Dec 14 #5: "The Rivals" is a 30-minute series that began on BBC Radio 4 in 2011: "Inspector Lestrade was made to look a fool in the Sherlock Holmes stories," and he is now writing his memoirs while working with Holmes' rivals. Phil Attwell reports four new programs, beginning on Dec. 31 with Ernest Bramah's "The Knight's Cross Signal Problem"; you can listen to all four of the new programs at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04vkmhh>, and you can purchase earlier programs from iTunes.
640. There's now a trade paperback edition of Michael Robertson's MORIARTY RETURNS A LETTER (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 263 pp., \$15.99); it's the fourth in his series about Reggie Heath, the London barrister who has offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail (Dec 13 #6), and it's nicely done indeed.
641. Ian Stewart's PROFESSOR STEWART'S CASEBOOK OF MATHEMATICAL MYSTERIES (New York: Basic Books, 2014; 307 pp., \$16.99) is his third collection of mathematical puzzles, tricks, curiosities, and problems, many of them involving Hemlock Soames and Dr. John Watsup, who live across the street from Holmes and Watson and add a lot of humor. Here's your chance to learn all about hexakosioihexekontahexaphobia, and much more.
642. Alexander Orlov has noted the BBC Genome Product <www.genome.ch.bbc.co.uk>, which "contains the BBC listings information which the BBC printed in Radio Times between 1923 and 2009," and will be useful to those who want to track down programs broadcast by the BBC in those years.
643. The Beeman's Christmas Annual for 2014 is a 36-page booklet offering tributes to the late Wally Walthen and a series of scholarly papers devoted to "The Musgrave Ritual", all by members of The Occupants of the Empty House; the cost of the Annual plus all twelve issues of The Camden House Journal for 2015 is \$21.00 postpaid, and checks (payable to the society) should be sent to: The Camden House Journal, Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999.
644. Further to the report (Sep 14 #7) that producer Antonio R. Marion was said developing a new Sherlock Holmes play, he has now announced that "Sherlock Holmes" will be coming to Broadway in 2017: the play will be written by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel and will offer "a new and deeply theatrical exploration of the mind of the famous detective, while remaining faithful to the mysterious world created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."
645. Robert Veld, author of the excellent THE STRAND MAGAZINE & SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jan 13 #3), is now researching copies of the Royal Edition of the Strand; at least three issues are known (Mar. 1891, Dec. 1892, and Dec. 1893), and he would appreciate hearing from anyone who owns these or other issues of the Royal Edition (which was printed on heavy paper and specially bound). His e-mail address is <robveld@bigpond.com>.
646. Warren Randall has formed a new Sherlockian society, The Khyber By-Passers, with membership open to those who have undergone heart surgery, know someone who has done so, and (at the request of Bob Katz) are pathologists or share the society's morbid interests. Warren notes that the actions of Violet de Merville caused her father to suffer a broken heart, thus justifying the name of the society. You can contact Warren at <whirdy@aol.com>.
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647. Dec 14 #6: Further to the report (Sep 14 #4) about the pending sale of New Scotland Yard, the site has been sold to Abu Dhabi Investment Group for £370 million, well over the asking price of £250 million, and the site will become a "mixed-use residential development." It's not the historic Great Scotland Yard, well-known to Sherlock Holmes; New Scotland Yard has served as police headquarters since 1967. Proceeds from the sale will be invested in new technology for police officers, including body cameras and tablet computers.
648. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Beverly: Rockport Publishers, 2014; 320 pp., \$25.00) is the latest in the publisher's "Classics Reimagined" series, offering a dozen cases colorfully illustrated by Sophia Martineck. Visit her web-site <www.martineck.com/e/projekt.php?number=170> to see her imaginative approach to the stories.

649. Jennie Paton has noted the latest from World Wrestling Entertainment: Sherlock Holmes vs. Vladimir Putin. Well, actually, it's from Ultimate Destiny Wrestling; you can watch the video at <www.tinyurl.com/kt6xazj>.
650. In case you're seeking a belated Christmas present for a Sherlockian collector: a copy of the Bazaar Number of The Student (Nov. 20, 1896) with the first appearance of Conan Doyle's parody "The Field Bazaar" will be offered at auction at Lyon & Turnbull in Edinburgh on Jan. 28, estimated at £1,000-£1,200, with a starting bid of £900 <www.tinyurl.com/nrmbsq7>.
651. David Harnois has recorded "A Scandal in Bohemia" for his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>, where you can listen to the 44-minute dramatized reading; it's nicely done, and "The Red-Headed League" is scheduled for January.
652. "Thank you Arthur Conan Doyle for creating the enigmatic character of Sherlock Holmes. It has always been an inspiration to us." That's from the opening credits of the new Indian film "Samrat & Co."; you can see a trailer at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/p9tbksc>, and while the DVD (in Hindi with English subtitles) is not yet available here, you might find it at eBay. The film's an interesting modern mystery, with hints of Robert Downey Jr., Benedict Cumberbatch, and even a bit of Tony Shalhoub.
653. "Includes a rules & solutions book, case cards, a detective's notebook, & an egg timer," according to the box that contains THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE CASE (New York: Sterling Innovation, 2014; \$12.95); the case cards present 120 puzzles and riddles, and they make for a nice parlor game.
654. SHERLOCK HOLMES: A SELECTION OF HIS GREATEST CASES (London: Arcturus, 2014; 372 pp., \$24.95) offers "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and a dozen short stories, with some of Sidney Paget's illustrations and an appreciative introduction by Martin Edwards; cloth-bound and in a handsome slipcase.
655. Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975) is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).
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656. Dec 14 #7: The Order of Canada was established in 1967 to recognize outstanding merit or distinguished service, and one of its newest members is Peter Calamai, who was honored "for his achievements as a science journalist and for his contributions to the cause of literacy." Congratulations to Peter Calamai, now C.M. as well as B.S.I.
657. INVESTIGATING SHERLOCK HOLMES: SOLVED & UNSOLVED MYSTERIES (Oakville: Mosaic Press, 2014; 239 pp., \$17.95) is a collection of Sherlockian scholarship by Hartley R. Nathan and Clifford S. Goldfarb (with assistance from Joseph Kessel and John Linsenmeyer), and it's nice indeed to have the results of their investigations conveniently available; they have focused on the many Jewish aspects of the Canon, with side trips into lawyering, restaurants, and weaponry, and they present their discoveries with careful attention and with considerable humor.
658. Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" continues to offer interesting content, including podcasts recorded by Scott and Burt Wolder. Their latest podcast (#72) was posted on Blue Carbuncle Day, and they invite you to celebrate a belated Christmas by listening to "The Sherlockian Tannenbaum" at <www.tinyurl.com/mwppqcu>.
659. Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, return in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's THE BODY SNATCHERS AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2014; 219 pp., \$25.99), the third book in their entertaining series; once again they're occasionally assisted (and annoyed) by Sherlock Holmes (or a man who claims to be Holmes).
660. Paul Laudiero's amusing SH*T ROUGH DRAFTS (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2014; 135 pp., \$12.95), is subtitled "pop culture's favorite books, movies, and TV shows as they might have been, and The Classics include one-page alternatives for "The Speckled Band", "The Red-Headed League", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
661. Colin Mochrie, most famous for his appearances on the television improvisation program "Whose Line Is It Anyway?", has obviously enjoyed writing NOT QUITE THE CLASSICS (New York: Diversion Books, 2013; 192 pp., \$14.99); he bookends the first and last lines of classic books and poems around his own versions, one of which ("A Study in Ha Ha") is Sherlockian.
662. Fred Thursfeld's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TERRIBLE SECRET (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 183 pp., \$14.95) offers a capsule history of the First World War, and an account of Holmes' pursuit of an exotic dancer in hopes of retrieving the dire scientific secret she received from a Swiss patent clerk in Zurich. Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SCOTTISH QUESTION (2014; 196 pp., \$14.95) involves Holmes and Watson in a pursuit of the long-lost Crown of Scotland and a battle against Scots nationalists. And Gary Lovisi's THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING WATSON'S LOST DISPATCH BOX (2014; 152 pp., \$9.95) is a story set in modern Boston, where a bookstore owner finds an author's copy of The Strand Magazine and what appears to be a page torn from Watson's diary, and quickly becomes involved with drug dealers and corrupt politicians and police; he's assisted by a street-smart young man, and they use Sherlockian methods in their investigation. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
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663. Dec 14 #8 The Guardian reported (Dec. 10) that BBC Worldwide (the commercial arm of the BBC) has struck a deal with Kuwait-backed London Resort Company Holdings that allows BBC programs and characters to be "brought to life" at a new £2 billion theme park and holiday resort that's planned to be built by the Thames estuary in north Kent, scheduled to open in 2020. The Guardian's story was headlined "Sherlock World?"
664. And as usual, there's Sherlockian theater afoot: Michael Mendenian and John Weagly's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" is playing at the Raven Theatre in Chicago through Jan. 4 <www.raventheatre.com>.
665. Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is being performed at the Jericho Arts Centre in Vancouver, B.C., through Jan. 10 <www.jerichoartscentre.com>.
666. Daniel and Tom Clarkson's "Potted Sherlock" ("all 60 Sherlock Holmes stories in just 80 elementary minutes") is running at the Vaudeville Theatre in London through Jan. 11 <www.pottedsherlock.com>.
667. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be produced at B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., Jan. 6 through Feb. 7 <www.bstreettheatre.org>; this Watson is the "trusty side-kick to Sherlock Holmes, loyal engineer who built Bell's first telephone, unstoppable supercomputer that became reigning "Jeopardy!" champ, and amiable techno-deweeb who, in the present day is looking for love." There's a five-minute video about the play's background at <www.tinyurl.com/phd7ahv>.
668. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Flint Community Players in Flint, Mich., Jan. 29-Feb. 8; their web-site is at <www.flintcommunityplayers.com>. Also at Theatre 98 in Fairhope, Alaska, July 23-Aug. 2, 2015 <www.theatre98.org>, and at the Cannery Stage in Penticton, B.C., Nov. 12-Dec. 15, 2015 <www.manyhatstheatre.com>.
669. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled at the Doris Harper-White Community Playhouse in Flagstaff, Ariz., Jan. 30 to Feb. 15, 2015 <www.theatrkos.com>. Also at the Magenta Theater in Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 25-Oct. 10 <www.magentatheater.com>.

670. Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge's "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" is scheduled by the Cortland Repertory Theatre in Cortland, N.Y., July 29-Aug. 6, 2015 <www.cortlandrep.org>.
671. "The Modern Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" offers an interesting approach to the Canon, with the Jet City Improv responding to an audience member's presentation of a mystery; the theater is in Seattle, and performances are from Jan. 8 to Feb. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/oqljxxc>.
672. Alden Nowlan and Walter Learning's "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca" on the schedule at the Scarborough Guild Theatre in Scarborough, Ont., Jan. 9-24 <www.theatrescarborough.com>.

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Jan 15 #1:

1. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 161st birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 7 to Jan. 11. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Annie Moore's, and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.
 2. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Alan Bradley, co-author of *MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET* (2004), and author of the award-winning "Flavia de Luce" series; the title of his talk was "Ha! The Stars Are Out and the Wind Has Fallen" (his paper will be published in the next issue of *The Baker Street Journal*).
 3. The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Restaurant was well attended, as always, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton and Andrew Joffe) entertained the audience with an updated version of "The Sherlock Holmes Cable Network" (2000). The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan Whimsey Award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in *The Serpentine Muse* last year: the winner (Jenn Eaker) received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
 4. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Paul Martin proposed the preprandial first toast to Inez Bergquist as *The Woman*. The dinner's agenda featured the traditional BSI toasts and rituals, Michael Dirda's report on Langdale Pike's participation in the Civil War and other important events, Terry Hunt's tribute to Christopher Morley, and David Stuart Davies' one-man multi-voice performance of an unrecorded but almost Canonical episode at Baker Street and elsewhere.
 5. Mike Whelan (BSI's "Wiggins") presented the BSI's Tip of the Deerstalker Awards to Marsha Pollak, Ralph Hall, George McCormack, and Jim Saunders, and a Two-Shilling Award to Mary Ann Bradley. This year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were awarded to Bill Mason ("White Mason"), James O'Brien ("Knowledge of Chemistry.--Profound"), Chrys Kegley ("Rachel Howells"), Kiyoshi Arai ("The Shoso-in Near Nara"), Emily Miranker ("Lady Hatty St. Simon"), Kristina Manente ("Grace Dunbar"), Marino C. Alvarez ("Hilton Soames"), and Jeffory Hart ("Henry Baker").
 6. An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the agenda featured toasts, music, a show-and-tell by Bob Zatz ("On Dr. Watson's Guns"), and theatrics that included performances of William Gillette's "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" and some original skits, and much more.
 7. Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots.
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8. Jan 15 #2: On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured Gayle Lange Puhl's new play "The Riddle of the Refurbished Room" (performed by Ken Vogel's hand puppets).
 9. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; Timothy S. Greer was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check accompanied by an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to *The Baker Street Journal* in 2014. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of tickets for the raffle prize (the set of five medals handcrafted by Maggie Schpak for *The Curious Collectors of Baker Street*), and an auction of attractive donations to the Fund.
 10. The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and *The Curious Collectors of Baker Street* at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Churchill Tavern.
 11. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 15, 2016. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 9, 2016.
 12. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of *The Baker Street Journal*. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$39.95 (to the U.S.) or \$52.00 (elsewhere); payment by credit card or PayPal is welcome, or you can pay by check sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077).
 13. You can also subscribe at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSI, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
 14. The title of *The Baker Street Journal*'s 2014 Christmas Annual is "The Only Actor Who Ever Got It Right" (it's now in the hands of BSI subscribers, and not otherwise available unless you can find it at eBay or wherever), and it is a warm tribute to Douglas Wilmer, now 95 years old, and it includes his speech to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner in 1994.
 15. The BSI's 2015 Christmas Annual will be a 40th-anniversary tribute to Nicholas Meyer's *THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION*, both the book and the film; the Annual, edited by Steven Doyle, will commemorate the spark that ignited the great Sherlockian "boom" of the 1970s.
 16. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) his 2015 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 have received Irregular Shillings).
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17. Jan 15 #3: *OUT OF THE ABYSS* is the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series (2014; 229 pp., \$39.95); edited by Andrew Solberg, Steven Rothman, and Robert Katz, it offers a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Empty House", an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on both the manuscript and the story, artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele on the dust jacket, and a nice surprise if you (carefully) remove the dust jacket to inspect the cloth binding. Details, on the book, including the table of contents and one of the articles, are available at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
 18. Sonia Fetherston's *PRINCE OF THE REALM: THE MOST IRREGULAR JAMES BLISS AUSTIN* (2014; 174 pp., \$21.95) is the second volume in the BSI's biographical series, and it's a fine tribute to a fascinating man who was a collector, scholar, and mentor, and a good friend to many Sherlockians.

19. Also from the BSI is *SHERLOCKIAN SATURDAYS AT THE PRATT*, edited by William Hyder (2014; 192 pp., \$21.95), offers a splendid survey of three decades of Canonical scholarship from the annual gatherings at Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library. All of the BSI's books can be ordered using the BSI web-site or by mail (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) from Michael H. Kean, 3040 Stoa Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93593; shipping for one book costs \$5.95 to U.S./\$22.95 elsewhere. Add \$1.50/\$5.00 for each additional book in the same shipment.
20. *THE DRURY LANE THEATRE MYSTERY* is Dennis Hoey's only screenplay, unproduced and only now published, found by Michael A. Hoey after his father died, and now available accompanied by Michael's account of his father's life and career, and a description and history of the Drury Lane (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2014; 85 pp., \$12.95) <www.gasogenebooks.com>. Dennis Hoey had a long career on stage, screen, radio, and television, almost always as a supporting character in roles that included Inspector Lestrade in Universal's "Sherlock Holmes" series, and of course Holmes, Watson, and Lestrade are all involved in Hoey's mystery at the Drury Lane.
21. One of the nicest things about modern technology is it offers access to so much information, as can be seen easily in Gasogene's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, VOLUME 1, 1881-1892*, edited (and annotated) by Mattias Boström and Matt Laffey (2014; 306 pp., \$32.95). They've scoured digitized archives and extracted and reprinted a treasure trove of articles that offer a fascinating look at what was to be found in print in those years, including (for example) the first commentary on the many mistakes in "Silver Blaze" (and the critics were not at all kind). There will be more volumes to come in the series, and that's nice news indeed for anyone who want to see just how valuable an institution the Press can be.
22. Also from Gasogene: *221 BBC*, by Bert Coules (2014; 297 pp., \$22.95) is an expanded and revised second edition of the 76-page booklet published by the Northern Musgraves in 1998, and it will be welcomed by all who have enjoyed Bert's work on the BBC's radio series, which not only was the first (and the only) series to have dramatized all of the Canon but also was extended by Bert to include 15 apocryphal stories. Bert tells grand stories about how the series was made, and has a fine chapter ("Sherlock Speaks!") in which he discusses earlier appearances of Holmes and Watson on radio.

23. Jan 15 #4: Wipro Ltd. is a global information technology, consulting, and outsourcing company based in India, and The Times of India reported (Dec. 23) that Wipro has developed a cognitive computing system the company has named Holmes (as in heuristics and ontology-based learning machines and experimental systems). The newspaper wondered whether Wipro's Holmes would partner with IBM's Watson. It should be noted that IBM's Watson has nothing to do with the Canon; its name honors Thomas J. Watson, for many years the head of IBM.
24. There's no shortage of Sherlockian commercials, now on the Internet as well as on television; here's one from Sephora <www.tinyurl.com/l3ah2f4>, noted by Samantha Wolov.
25. The statues of Paddington Bear (Nov 14 #3) were sold at auction at Christie's web-site, but Sherlock Paddington, designed by Benedict Cumberbatch, was one of the select number of statues that were sold in a by-invitation-only live auction before the on-line event. The hammer price for Sherlock Paddington was £17,000 (not the most expensive Paddington, which was a W2 1RH bear designed by artist Tracey Quinn that sold for £58,000). You can see images of all the bears at <www.tinyurl.com/nt7qtqe>.
26. Further to the report (Oct 14 #8) of the new commercial DVD of Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982), the voice-over commentary by Baker includes his recollection of playing both Holmes and Moriarty on stage, in the same play. And so he did, which qualifies him for the list of actors who have played both roles.
27. Alexander Orlov has been exploring the Associated Press' digitized archives and has found a nice photograph of the passport Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used when he visited the front during World War One <www.tinyurl.com/q2lfsmk>; it should be noted that the descriptive text isn't accurate.
28. Andrew Lane's *YOUNG SHERLOCK: STONE COLD* (London: Macmillan, 2014; 307 pp., £12.99) is the seventh in his imaginative series; Sherlock now is a student at Oxford, but quickly becomes involved with bizarre crimes and criminals. And Lane has a second novel about Caleb Challenger, grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger: *LOST WORLDS: SHADOW CREATURES* (London: Macmillan, 2014; 320 pp., £12.99) has Caleb and his friends still in pursuit of supposedly mythological creatures, and still in conflict with a sinister corporation that wants to exploit them. The books are nicely written and the stories well told, and both series will be interesting for young adults.
29. There's now a Sherlock Holmes Hostel in Vladivostok. Images are available at <www.booking.com/hotel/ru/sherlock-holmes-hostel.html>, and the cost is \$7.00 a night for a bed in four-bed mixed dormitory room.
30. Shane Peacock's *THE BOY SHERLOCK HOLMES* is another well-written series for young adults, with a total of six books providing an interesting back-story for Holmes, Moriarty, Lestrade, and Irene Adler; the last in the series was *BECOMING HOLMES* (Toronto: Tundra, 2012; 245 pp., \$9.99), and all of the titles are available as trade paperbacks. Peacock's interesting web-site for the series is at <www.theboysherlockholmes.com>, and there's more about his other work at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.

31. Jan 15 #5: And when did Tom Baker play both Holmes and Moriarty on stage, in the same play? In 1985, in Dublin, in the premiere of Hugh Leonard's "The Mask of Moriarty". There are other actors have appeared in the role(s) in that play, including Geoffrey Palmer and Paxton Whitehead, and the script's available from Samuel French <www.samuel french.com>. But: name another performer who has appeared as both Holmes and Moriarty in an entirely different production.
32. The February issue of Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*, continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
33. The Museum of London continues to offer intriguing events tied to its Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, including "Sleeping with Sherlock" on Feb. 14 and Mar. 28: the all-night event includes a three-course dinner, talks by detective specialists, comedy performances and improvised story-telling, the secrets of fingerprinting and blood-splatter analysis, grizzly ghost stories in the thick of night, a movie marathon, and a full English breakfast (all for £175.00). Their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qg68kht> has details on all of the museum's Sherlockian events.
34. *Y CYLCH BRITH* (a Welsh translation of "The Speckled Band" that was arranged by The Deerstalkers of Welshpool) is now available from Y Lolfa, unofficial printers to the activist Welsh Language Society as a 60-page trade paperback (£3.95) <www.ylolfa.com> and <www.amazon.co.uk>.
35. The December issue of the electronic journal *Ripperologist* has Adam Woods' interesting article "Sherlock Holmes and the Polish Jew" (which includes a reprint of Sir Robert Anderson's 1903 article "Sherlock Holmes, Detective, As Seen by Scotland Yard"); Anderson was Assistant Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police, and the Polish Jew was Aaron Kosminski, whom Anderson believed was Jack the Ripper. Woods' article discusses Conan Doyle and Scotland Yard as well as Sherlock Holmes. *Ripperologist* is devoted to all aspects of Jack the Ripper (who is mentioned in Hornung's story); contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editor@yaho.co.uk> for information on how to subscribe.
36. Alexander Orlov has reported on a new *HOLMES* in Tajikistan <www.holmes.tj>; it's billed (in Russian) as the first search engine in the country, making it "convenient to look for the right information in your home town in Tajikistan."

37. It has been a long wait for fans of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes (GARMENT OF SHADOWS was published in 2012), and Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES (New York: Bantam, 2015; 352 pp., \$26.00) will welcome indeed. Russell and Holmes are en route from India to San Francisco (between events in THE GAME and LOCKED ROOMS), and are diverted to Japan and presented with a mystery that's finally solved only after they return to England; the characters are interesting and the plot both imaginative and complicated. Laurie has an excellent web-site at <www.laurierking.com> that's fun for both newcomers and old hands (you can also subscribe to her newsletter "Between the Lines: The Buzz from Laurie R. King").

38. Jan 15 #6: And what other performer has appeared as both Holmes and Watson on stage in an entirely different production? Kenneth Macmillan, who was seen as both The Great Detective and The Infamous Professor in the ballet "The Great Detective" at Sadler's Wells in London in 1953. Bert Coules has suggested another candidate: Jeremy Brett, in the play written for him by Jeremy Paul, in which Professor Moriarty actually was Sherlock Holmes (or at least "a conjuration of his fevered mind").
39. "Mr. Holmes" (the film that stars Ian McKellen as an aged Holmes, based on Mitch Cullen's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND), will be screened at the Berlin International Film Festival in February <www.berlinale.de>, and it should not be long before it's in theaters. And PBS-TV has announced that it will air "Arthur and George" (the television series based on Julian Barnes' novel, with Martin Clunes as Conan Doyle) on "Masterpiece" later this year.
40. Filming has begun on the "Sherlock" special and according to Mark Gatiss, in an interview with Paul Jones of Radio Times, it will "completely" solve the mystery of Moriarty's appearance at the end of the third season. The special may or may not air at Christmas. There's a (very) brief glimpse of Benedict Cumberbatch in BBC One's "Enjoy 2015" trailer available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/lqx2js6>.
41. "Missing since Jan. 4: Gillette Castle. Age 100+. Description: Castle-like and stony." That's the promotion for the Connecticut Humanities Council's "The Great Connecticut Caper" ("12 chapters, 12 authors, 12 illustrators, 1 story"), an imaginative on-line weekly serial that's well worth exploring <www.ctcaper.cthumanities.org>.
42. Anthony Horowitz's publisher reports that THE HOUSE OF SILK (Dec 11 #5) has sold more than 450,000 copies in more than 35 countries, so there will be a wide audience for his MORIARTY (London: Orion, 2014; 310 pp., £19.99) (New York: HarperCollins, 2014; 285 pp., \$26.99). They'll not be disappointed: it's a well-written page-turner, finely plotted and with a surprise ending.
43. The story is set after the fateful battle at the Reichenbach, with Holmes and Watson only mentioned; the major characters are Scotland Yard Inspector Athelney Jones, Pinkerton investigator Frederick Chase, and American master criminal Clarence Devereux, and they're accompanied by interesting supporting characters.
44. For completists: the British edition of MORIARTY has extra content (a Sherlockian pastiche "The Three Monarchs"), and a variant sold exclusively at Waterstone's also included a Canonical crossword puzzle; Horowitz did not make a American signing tour, but the U.S. edition with an exclusive laid-in bookmark signed by the author is available the from Mysterious Bookshop <www.themyteriousbookshop.com>.
45. The web-site of The Priory Scholars of NYC now offers a chance to listen to three of the Priory Scholars of Fordham's broadcasts over WFUV in the very old days: "The Priory School" (1969), "The Second Stain" (1970), and "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (1970); go to <www.prioryscholarsnyc.wordpress.com> and click on "Radio Programmes" at the right. You will hear some familiar voices (some of the people who participated still come to the birthday festivities in New York in January).

46. Jan 15 #7: The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2014" has the theme "Pairings" and the authors range from Robert Brusic's thoughts about Sherlock Holmes and Helena Modjeska to Michael Eckman's nice tribute to Baring-Gould's ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. Edited by Timothy Reich and Ray Reithmeier, the 50-page booklet can be ordered from Timothy Reich (6809 Pillsbury Avenue, Richfield, MN 55423; the cost is \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
47. Laurie R. King's MARY'S CHRISTMAS is an imaginative short story available as an e-story (\$2.99) and as a signed 33-page paper copy (\$10.00). Russell tells Holmes about one her thoroughly unusual Uncle Jake, and there's more information at Laurie's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/q96d4ko>.
48. The third issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published this month, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with articles that include James B. Saunders' memories of his teenage years with Chris Steinbrunner ("Irregulars of Auld"), Harrison Hunt's tribute to Christ Cella ("Christopher Morley's Beloved Punchinello"), and Derham Groves' report on a project carried out by his architecture students "(Designing the Conan Doyle Mystery Theatre)". \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).
49. Patrick Gowers died on Dec. 30. He was an accomplished composer, and wrote a guitar concerto for John Williams, a Toccato for organ for Simon Preston, and (certainly most important for Sherlockians) he composed and conducted the splendid music for the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" television series.
50. The Fourth Garrideb is a new Sherlockian society devoted to coin collecting in connection with the Canon; Greg Ruby presides over the society, and he has created an interesting and colorfully-illustrated web-site that covers coins, medals, orders, decorations, wooden nickels, cryptocurrency, tokens, and much more <www.fourthgarrideb.com>.
51. Austin J. McLean ("The London Library") died on Jan. 16. He was the right man in the right place at the right time: as head of special collections at the University of Minnesota Library, he found the funds for and negotiated their acquisition of John Bennett Shaw's collection, and thus was instrumental in creating the wonderful Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minneapolis. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1990.
52. Bill Dorn has compiled a 42-minute DVD "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: A Comparison of Actors in Identical Scenes" with brief scenes from film and television versions of ten of the stories; it's not for sale, but he'll be happy to send copies for use in classroom environments <billdorn@mac.com>.
53. Sherlockian philately: Alexander Orlov has reported that last year Zanzibar issued 16 Cinderella mini-sheets, each with a different photograph of Conan Doyle, framed by an image of Watson (Vitaly Solomin) and Holmes (Vasily Livanov playing chess. Steve Trussel displays images of these and many other Sherlockian and Doylean stamps at his excellent (and colorful) web-site The Philatelic Sherlock Holmes <www.trussel.com/detfic/sholmes.htm>. It should be noted that Cinderellas are not real postage stamps, and that Zanzibar no longer is a country and thus has no postal service.

54. Jan 15 #8 Mike Poteet reported in a message to The Hounds of the Internet that this year is the 50th anniversary of the Broadway premiere of the musical "Baker Street", and Rod Mollise noted that once was included in the catalog of the Tams-Witmark Music Library. And is still is, in case you want to try to suggest that a local theater or school produce the show <www.tams-witmark.com>.
55. The birthday-festivities performance by Andrew Joffe and Paul Singleton at the William Gillette luncheon (Jan 15 #1) was recorded by Greg Oliver Bodine, and he has kindly made it available at YouTube (copyright 2015); you can watch it at YouTube <www.youtu.be/4BoTmQVUEyg>.

56. And if you want to see what things were like in London, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London proudly displays 125 photographs from this year's annual dinner <www.tinyurl.com/mjatsh9>; they're nicely captioned (roll your mouse over the images).
57. The gas-lamp era is has not ended: Michael Bragg notes that NPR's Ari Shapiro reported on NPR's "All Things Considered" on Jan. 15 that British Gas employs five lamplighters to tend to London's 1,500 gaslamps, still working and protected by law, thanks to British Heritage. You can read (and listen to) the story at <www.tinyurl.com/pjkk8nj>.
58. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is running at the Little Theatre of Alexandria in Alexandria, Va., through Feb. 7 <www.thelittletheatre.com>. And at the Academy of Performing Arts Playhouse in Orleans, Mass., through Feb. 15 <www.apacape.org>.
59. "The Speckled Band: An Adventure of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play by Timothy N. Evers) is scheduled at the Classical Theatre Company in Houston, Tex., Feb. 4-22 <www.classicaltheatre.org>.
60. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Carrollwood Players Theatre in Tampa, Fla., Feb. 13-Mar. 7 <www.carrollwoodplayers.org>.
61. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) is scheduled at the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis, Feb. 18-Mar. 1 <www.irtlive.com>.
62. The Frisco Area Children's Theater will present Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus' new play "Baker Street Irregulars" at the Frisco Discovery Center in Frisco, Tex., Feb. 27-Mar. 7 <www.friscoacts.com>.
63. Alas: printing costs for this newsletter have risen slightly, and the new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version now are \$13.50 (domestic) and \$21.50 (international). The electronic version is available (without charge, and with illustrations in color and live URLs) at the Red Circle's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo80> as well as at Willis Frick's Sherlocktron <www.tinyurl.com/kl9gcll>.

64. Feb 15 #1: Still more news about last month's birthday festivities in New York: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, almost certainly the tallest author of a Sherlockian pastiche (MYCROFT HOLMES, due from Titan later this year) attended the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, and you can read more about it in Jonathan Blitzer's report for The New Yorker at <www.tinyurl.com/mb49798>, Randall Stock kindly notes that if you encounter a paywall, you run a Google search for ["best impression of someone with a low profile"] (you need to include the quotation marks).
65. Blitzer's story appeared in print in The New Yorker on Feb. 2, preceded by Nick Paumgarten's comments on the move of the magazine's offices from its headquarters at 4 Times Square to join the rest of its parent company Condé Nast at 1 World Trade Center. Paumgarten noted that there are "islands of safety" in the Times Square neighborhood, including one that will be familiar to those who fondly remember the Algonquin Hotel: the Red Flame diner, "still sincere in spite of a series of face-lifts."
66. Tim Dedopulos' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE COLLECTION (London: Carlton/SevenOaks, 2011; 288 pp., \$5.99) offers 150 enigmas to test your logic, non-Sherlockian but presented by Holmes and others in the Canon. Such as: "I'd like you to consider the following sequence of numbers, Watson. They are 2, 5, 8, 11, 16, 14. What number less than 20 is the next in the line? I assure you that you do not need mathematical aptitude to arrive at the correct answer."
67. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) honors Conan Doyle's trip to Canada in 1914, and you can request a copy of the newsletter from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
68. The 2013 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Bernard Lightman (on "Conan Doyle and the Scientific Naturalists"), and his paper has now been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and creditcard capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$25.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2014 Memorial Lecture (by Lyndsay Faye on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator").
69. Cliff Goldfarb will deliver the Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture this year (on "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo") on June 27, in honor of the 200th anniversary of the Battle, and Canadian actor Robert H. Thomson will present a reading of Conan Doyle's one-act play "Waterloo".
70. Ravelry <www.ravelry.com> is a free knit-and-crochet on-line community and Melissa Ennis has noted their pattern for a "Dancing Men Muff" (there are quite a few other Sherlockian patterns available). Melissa also has found a Sherlock Holmes dog costume pattern available from McCall's (one of their "sewing patterns for today's fashion trends" <www.tinyurl.com/qch3jdc>).

71. Feb 15 #2: It's time for another mention of the delightful web-site "Basil Rathbone: Master of Stage and Screen" maintained by Marcia Jessen, who presents an excellent catalog of his work on stage, screen, radio, television, and records <www.basilrathbone.net>. There are opportunities to listen and view, and there's also a gallery of photographs: the page for the 1940s <www.tinyurl.com/nggwdhh> includes one that shows him with Nigel Bruce and Rupert Hughes, receiving his certificate of membership in The Baker Street Irregulars. The presentation was on Apr. 17, 1944, when Bruce also received a certificate of membership.
72. What number is next in the sequence 2, 5, 8, 11, 16, 14? The answer is 17. Why?
73. Bradford Morrow's THE FORGERS (New York: Mysterious Press, 2014; 242 pp., \$24.00) is an imaginative mystery (and thriller) involving collectors, book dealers, forgers, and forgeries that include revelations in letters written by Arthur Conan Doyle; it's a well-written book, with an intriguing plot.
74. Jim Saunders has a proposal for the next Sherlock Holmes movie: Jabez Wilson receives reward money for exposing bank robber Vincent Spaulding, and moves to Indonesia, where he goes into business distilling gin using a special process and recipe; he heats the gin in a huge cauldron, more than 25 feet high, the largest cauldron in the world, and is quite successful, but has to call in Sherlock Holmes when saboteurs try to destroy the cauldron. The name of the movie? "The Giant Vat of Sumatra".
75. David Hale Smith's "Return of the Great American Indie Bookstore" is in the January issue of the in-flight magazine American Way, with a colorful report on how nice an independent brick-and-mortar bookstore can be; you can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ph4x8r5>.
76. Michele B. Slung edited two interesting anthologies: I SHUDDER AT YOUR TOUCH (1991) and SHUDDER AGAIN (1993), each containing "22 tales of sex and horror"; the second anthology has stories by Ray Bradbury, Harlan Ellison, J. G. Ballard, and 19 others, according to the dust jacket, and one of the 19 others is Arthur Conan Doyle, whose "The Parasite" is described as a "masterpiece of sexual mesmerism and demonic destruction."
77. The Financial Post had a story (Jan. 30) about Tweed Marijuana Inc., Canada's first publicly-traded pot producer. The company uses "creative and engaging titles for its products," taking cues from "famous people who have worn tweed fabric throughout history." And one of their brands ("Bakerstreet") is named in honor of the street on which Sherlock Holmes lived. Their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/nmhxn3u>.

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78. More than 30 years ago a young Mitch Cullin visited John Bennett Shaw and Dorothy Shaw at their home in Santa Fe and filmed a delightful interview; footage from the visit has now been edited into a 25-minute "Conversation with John Bennett Shaw" <www.vimeo.com/118371969>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton. And yes, that's the Mitch Cullin who went on to write A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (2005), which has been dramatized as "Mr. Holmes" (starring Ian McKellen), due in theaters this year.
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79. Feb 15 #3: Ken Ludwig's new play "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" premiered at Arena Stage in Washington to enthusiastic reviews in the press and from local Sherlockians; there's lots of energy and drama, and even more humor, in the script, acting, direction, and set design. The next productions will be at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton N.J., Mar. 10-29 <www.mccarter.org>, and at the Old Globe in San Diego, Calif., July 24-Aug. 23 <www.theoldglobe.org>. Recommended.
80. What number is next in the sequence 2, 5, 8, 11, 16, 14? The answer is 17. Why? The numbers are in increasing length when spelled out as words. Two has three letters, five has four, and 14 has eight. The only number less than 20 with nine digits is seventeen.
81. LeRoy Lad Panek offers an interesting survey in his AFTER SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE EVOLUTION OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN DETECTIVE STORIES, 1891-1914 (Jefferson: McFarland, 2014; 214 pp., \$40.00); he begins earlier than 1891, continues with a discussion of what's unique about a detective story, and goes on to examine and review the Canon and the best of many authors who helped make the genre so much fun for such a wide and enthusiastic audience. The publisher's at <www.mcfarlandpub.com> (800-253-2817).
82. The next running of The Baker Street Irregulars' "The Silver Blaze" at Saratoga Racetrack in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is scheduled for Aug. 1; more information is available from Candace Lewis <clewis1880@aol.com>.
83. The owners of Simpson's-in-the-Strand are looking for someone "to revitalize this magnificent space and name," which may well be bad news indeed for those who have fond memories of dining, and dining well, in an establishment that was known to Holmes and Watson (and mentioned in "The Dying Detective" and "The Illustrious Client"). Founded in 1828 as a coffee house and chess club, Simpson's became famous as a properly British restaurant serving properly British food, but that sort of tradition seems to be less important now both to locals and to tourists. You can visit their web-site <www.simpsonsinthestrland.co.uk> for what may be a last look at a true landmark of a vanishing era.
84. There's a sample from the new film "Mr. Holmes" (starring Ian McKellen) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/otnf6un>. And McKellen has provided a teaser poster at his Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/orwh2zu>.
85. Stepping Stones School has won final approval of its plan to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school for special-needs children (Sep 14 #6); the main part of the house will be largely preserved and restored, with changes to floor plans to allow for classrooms and bedrooms, and an extension will be built to house studios and other facilities.
86. There are three titles in Christian Klaver's series THE SUPERNATURAL CASE FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2014): THE ADVENTURE OF THE SOLITARY GRAVE, THE ADVENTURE OF THE INNSMOUTH WHALER, and THE ADVENTURE OF THE LUSTROUS PEARL (each \$6.00); we find Holmes and Watson involved with vampires, and with the Esoteric Order of Dagon, and Klaver has a web-site <www.christianklaver.com> (his personal motto is "writing the fantastic until it bleeds").
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87. Feb 15 #4: Further to the item on Col. Percy H. Fawcett and the film based on David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (Dec 14 #2), Benedict Cumberbatch won't be playing Fawcett, and will instead star in the title role in "Doctor Strange". Charlie Hunnam has now been cast as Fawcett; there's no word on whether the film will show Fawcett's meeting with Conan Doyle.
88. Benedict Cumberbatch and Sophie Hunter celebrated Valentine's Day by marrying, at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Mottistone on the Isle of Wight.
89. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" has been restored, and had its world premiere in Paris on Jan. 31; it will be screened next during the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, May 28-June 1, and tickets will go on sale in March <www.silentfilm.org> (don't neglect the link to their "The Gillette Jollification" blog entry). You can also, thanks to the BBC News Magazine, see a three-minute clip from the film at <www.tinyurl.com/n5apa2r>.2
90. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France have published LE GUIDE DU FIM SHERLOCK HOLMES (1916), a 64-page profusely-illustrated discussion of the film and its actors, with articles by Thierry Saint-Joanis and Bernard Oudin; it is almost all in English, and costs €20.00 at <www.sshf.com/boutique.php>, where you can see thumb-nail images showing the results of their splendid research. Recommended.
91. The Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com> offers Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that will introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the web-site.
92. Nicely timed to coincide with publicity for Martin Clunes' television series "Arthur & George": a series of thirty Conan Doyle letters pertaining to the Edalji Case <www.tinyurl.com/m5y2h25>, coming to auction at Bonhams in London on Mar. 18. The mini-series is scheduled to air on ITV in Britain in three weekly one-hour episodes beginning on Mar. 2; there's a one-minute trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/mq8d8ct>.
93. And Clunes has told Radio Times (Feb. 16) that he hopes to extend his role as Conan Doyle into a full series; Philippa Braithwaite, Clunes' wife and producer of the mini-series, explained that a longer series could combine real events from the author's life with fictional elements: "We have told only a few months of Conan Doyle's life in 'Arthur & George' so there's so much more there."
94. Adam Zanzie has launched an Indiegogo campaign to raise funds for his thesis project: adapting Conan Doyle's "The Parasite" into a short film; contributors get a copy of the film, and other perks depending on the amount contributed, and you can see a brief trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/lqnt4tz>.
95. Further to the item (Nov 11 #6) on "Sherlock Holmes 4D" (an 11-minute "comedy mystery adventure"), visitors can enjoy the experience at Paultons Park in Hampshire when the park opens for the season on Mar. 20. The film also is being screened at the Allou! Fun Park near Athens in Greece. 4D films combine 3D film with special effects in the theater, and you can see a oneminute teaser of the 3D version of the film at <www.tinyurl.com/nczkmt>.
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96. Feb 15 #5: B. J. Rahn's THE REAL WORLD OF SHERLOCK (Stroud: Amberley Publishing, 2014; 264 pp., £20.00) explores both the character and his creator (and Edgar Allan Poe and Dupin, and Joseph Bell), and the police and the forensic science of the Victorian era, providing an excellent background for exploring the world of the Canon.
97. CONAN DOYLE'S WAR (Stroud: Amberley Publishing; 160 pp., £7.99) is part of Amberley's "Great Writers on the Great War" series, and it's an edited version (omitting details of which units fought where, and when) of the first of the six volumes of his THE BRITISH CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS, offering a fine opportunity to see how well Conan Doyle wrote about World War One. The publisher's web-site is at <www.amberley-books.com>.
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98. Anthony Horowitz's pastiche "The Three Monarchs" was published only in the British edition of his MORIARTY (Jan 15 #6), but it's available on-line as an e-story (\$1.99) for Kindle and Nook and the like.
99. DC Smith has noted a 3-minute YouTube video of Mary Ciccolella's spectacular miniature room-box recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street <www.tinyurl.com/ku2obwv>, and there are close-up photographs of the room at <www.tinyurl.com/px6tdzr>. I've not heard that anyone has done a miniature of the sitting-room in the "Sherlock" television series, but I'm sure someone will.
100. Congratulations to Graham Moore, who won an Oscar (best adapted screenplay) for "The Imitation Game"; he also is the author of the pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (Nov 10 #8), and you can listen to his interview with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.ihose.co/ihose30>.
101. Brad Keefauver is the energetic proprietor of Sherlock Peoria <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com> as well as an enthusiastic fan of the television series "Elementary"; see his post for Feb. 5 for information on his new society The Thursday Night Elementals.
102. At long last: you can read the Sherlock Holmes story "Discovering the Border Burghs and, by Deduction, the Brig Bazaar" (first published in 1903 in THE BOOK O' THE BRIG and only recently found by Walter Elliott when a copy of the 48-page pamphlet turned up in his attic). Conan Doyle appeared at the bazaar, which was held to raise funds to replace a wooden bridge that was destroyed by a flood in the town of Selkirk in Scotland in 1902. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/kduqaro> (there's a link to the story) and watch a two-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/mno5kyn>.
103. It should be noted that, even faster than with "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted" in 1948 (when there was no Internet), people have expressed doubts that the story actually was written by Conan Doyle; Mattias Boström is one of the doubters, based in part on research in what was published about the bazaar in local papers, and you can read his conclusions at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/p5x5sz5>. Digitized data-bases are a wonderful resource, as one can see in SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, 1881-1892 (Jan 15 #3), the results of careful research by Mattias and Matt Laffey.

104. Feb 15 #6: Neil Gaiman's TRIGGER WARNING (New York: William Morrow, 2015; 310 pp., \$26.99) is aptly subtitled as "short fictions and disturbances"; it's a collection of short stories and poems by a writer whose talents for story-telling allow him to engage his readers with thoroughly imaginative humor and horror; one of the stories is "The Case of Death and Honey" (reprinted from A STUDY IN SHERLOCK: STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLMES CANON).
105. "Before being eclipsed by Howard Pyle, Doyle and Holmes were the objects of my obsession, and I still dip into their worlds from time to time," notes Ian Schoenherr, who has an interesting blog devoted to Howard Pyle; recent entries are devoted to Pyle's illustrations for Conan Doyle's poem "A Forgotten Tale" (1895) <www.tinyurl.com/mbmdk5p> and his novel "The Parasite" (1984) <www.tinyurl.com/n6xkg4h>.
106. "PaleyFest Made in NY" (celebrated by the Paley Center for Media in October 2013) included a 38-minute session on "Elementary" with the series' executive producers and leading actors <www.tinyurl.com/qaogbr4>; it's available (with a session on "The Americans") at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/lg6r7ag>.
107. Shafquat Towheed has edited an interesting edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2010; 218 pp., \$13.95) that offers far more than an arresting cover photograph of an Andaman Islander: there's an insightful introduction that sets the story in context, followed by an annotated version of the story, and five appendixes reprinting extracts from contemporary accounts of events in India, Afghanistan, and the Andaman Islands, and reviews of the newly-published book. It's availfrom the publisher <www.broadviewpress.com>.
108. Benedict Cumberbatch is keeping busy: he'll play the title role in the National Theatre's production of "Hamlet"; previews at the Barbican Theatre in London begin on Aug. 5; all the tickets have already been sold, but the production will be filmed and shown in theaters worldwide in October. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/pdee6b3>.
109. University of Southern Maine media student Kate Tracy's web-series "S(her)lock" (described as "a feminist LGBTQIA positive take on Sherlock Holmes") is underway. You can see her Kickstarter promotion and clips from four of the six episodes on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/o9ufwvp>, and there are posts about the web-series at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/lws8gyc> and <www.tinyurl.com/lmvz4wm>.
110. Benedict Cumberbatch as you've never seen him before: on the cover of Radio Times (Feb. 21); actually, on three different covers, with portraits in the styles of Rembrandt, Warhol, and Van Gogh <www.tinyurl.com/nxtucuq>.
111. Alan Howard died on Feb. 14. He had a distinguished career as an actor on stage, screen, and television, and his list of credits includes Theophilus St. James in "The Willow House School" in a BBC television series of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories (1967) and the Duke of Holderness in the Granada version of "The Priory School" (1986). "The Willow House School" was the BBC's title for Conan Doyle's "The Usher of Lea House School".

112. Feb 15 #7: The Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab specializes in "formulating body and household blends with a dark, romantic Gothic tone" and has introduced a 221B Baker Street line that's inspired by Canonical characters and stories; their web-site's at <www.blackphoenixalchemylab.com>. They're affiliated with the Black Phoenix Trading Post which offered (it's out of stock, but there's a waiting list) an "A Study in Emerald Neil Gaiman Pendant" <www.blackphoenixtradingpost.com>.
113. Three non-Sherlockian manuscripts ("The Nightmare Room", "The Parish Magazine", and "Through the Veil") and some Conan Doyle letters will be offered at auction at Swann Galleries in New York on Mar. 19. Read all about it at Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/m4dh2l7>.
114. Lynnette Porter's BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: IN TRANSITION (Sep 13 #6) was a delightful examination of his work as an actor and his relationship with his fandom, and she now offers BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH: TRANSITION COMPLETED (London: MX Publishing, 2014, 286 pp., \$18.95); her research is just as careful, and her reporting covers his recent work on stage, screen, radio, and television, including what's known about some things not yet completed, or even not yet in production. It is an excellent book, and the earlier book still is available; the publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <mxpublishing.co.uk>.
115. Also from MX: P. James Macaluso Jr. uses Legos to illustrate the Canon in full color, his latest being THE BOSCOMBE VALLEY MYSTERY, THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS, and THE MAN WITH THE TWISTED LIP (\$9.95 each), with imaginative recreations of Sidney Paget's illustrations for each story.
116. And there's more: ROGUES GALLERY (2014; 232 pp., \$14.95) is the latest in Dan Adriacco's series of about Sebastian McCabe and Jeff Cody, his modernday Holmes and Watson, with the sleuths at work in five short stories; Dan has a blog at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com> that's interesting, entertaining, and Sherlockian. THE LAST CONFESSION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Kieran Lyne (2014; 206 pp., \$14.95), is a retelling of the conflict leading to the battle at Reichenbach Falls, and then an account of Holmes' return to London and his pursuit of a new Jack the Ripper. Kim H.

- Krisco's *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GOLDEN YEARS* (2014; 345 pp., \$18.95) has Holmes and Watson in retirement, reunited with Irene Adler and battling a malevolent villain in London and Battle Creek, and then involved in colonial complications with Leander Starr Jameson in South Africa.
117. Fans of Basil of Baker Street may wish to bid on a production two-cell setup showing Basil and Dawson from "The Great Mouse Detective" coming to auction at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/lcdvexr>.
118. *THE LAST AMERICAN VAMPIRE* (New York: Grand Central, 2015; 398 pp., \$27.00), by Seth Grahame-Smith, is a sequel to his *ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER* (2010) and it offers an interesting look into a thoroughly popular genre; the last American vampire is Henry Sturges, and one of the many famous people he encounters is Arthur Conan Doyle, in London in 1888, while pursuing Jack the Ripper. Special compliments to Elizabeth Connor, who designed the truly imaginative dust jacket, which is on display, along with a video preview of the book, at <www.sethgrahamesmith.com>.
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119. Feb 15 #8 The spiritualist Noah Zerdin held a seance at the Aeolian Hall in London in 1934 and made recordings on 26 acetate disks that were discovered by Zerdin's son in 2001; he donated them to the British Library, and it is now possible to listen to the message that Conan Doyle delivered to the seance. Josh Jones posted about the seance to the blog Open Content on May 7, 2014 <www.tinyurl.com/kyzmczr>, and included links both to a recording Conan Doyle made before his death and to the 1934 recording; Steve Cleary's blog at a British Library web-site <www.tinyurl.com/on5k32l> offers more information about Zerdin and the seance.
120. Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention will be held in London on Apr. 24-26, organized in association with Hartswood Films (the production company for "Sherlock") at the ExCel convention center in London; you can sign up at the web-site <www.massiveevents.co.uk/sherlocked> for e-mail messages with more information about the convention.
121. And there's some Sherlockian theater: The Garland Civic Theatre will perform Jaime Robledo's "Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" in Garland, Texas, Mar. 6-28 <www.gardlandcivictheatre.org>.
122. On the Fly's improvisational "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Grace Emily Hotel in Adelaide, Australia, on Mar. 9-11, during the Adelaide Improv Festival <www.onthefly.org.au>.
123. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Curtain Call Theatre in Latham, N.Y., through Mar. 28 <www.curtaincalltheatre.com>. And it's scheduled at the Breckinridge Backstage Theatre in Breckenridge, Colo., Mar. 12-Apr. 4 <www.backstagetheatre.org>.
124. "Sherlock Holmes and the House of Dead Lords" will debut at the Victorian Players Theater in Youngstown, Ohio, Mar. 13-29 <www.victorianplayers.org>.
125. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled by the Cheyenne Little Theater Players at the Cheyenne Little Theatre in Cheyenne, Wyo., Mar. 13-29 <www.cheyennelittletheatre.org>.
126. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Mundelein High School Auditorium in Mundelein, Ill., Mar. 27-29 <www.kirkplayers.org>. And at the Dorset Theatre Festival in Dorset, Vt., July 9-25 <www.dorsettheatrefestival.org>.
127. "The bleak tale of a Norfolk village that's slowly falling into the sea" is how the Royal Geographical Society's magazine *Geographical* began its report (Feb. 12) about what's happening to Happisburgh, and to the Hill House Pub (where Conan Doyle was inspired to write "The Dancing Men"). The Norfolk coastline is eroding, and it's estimated that it would take £15 million to close the gap in protective sea defenses, and that "if the pub's luck holds then it may have another 30 years left before the sea claims it." You can read the story at <www.tinyurl.com/owdecym>.
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128. Mar 15 #1: Lyndsay Faye's next book will be *THE FATAL FLAME* (a sequel to her *THE GODS OF GOTHAM* and *SEVEN FOR A SECRET* in her series set 1840s New York), due in May from G. P. Putnam's Sons in May. She offers some insightful thoughts on "The Art of Pastiche" in an interview on Scott Monty's blog "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/putaf72>, and has her own interesting blog at <www.lyndsayfaye.com>.
129. Leonard Nimoy died on Feb. 27. Best known as Mr. Spock on "Star Trek", he wrote two autobiographies, *I AM NOT SPOCK* (1975) and *I AM SPOCK* (1995), and appeared as Sherlock Holmes on television in "The Interior Motive" (1975) and on stage in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1976). It was thanks to Nicholas Meyer, who wrote and directed "Star Trek IV: The Undiscovered Country" (1991), that Nimoy said (as Spock) "An ancestor of mine maintained that if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth." He also was the host of the television series "In Search of..." that in 1978 went "In Search of...Sherlock Holmes".
130. And Howard Ostrom has a new essay "Beam Me Up Sherlock" at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oqv5ljo> with details on the many actors, including Leonard Nimoy, who have been part of the Star Trek and Sherlock Holmes franchises.
131. Three non-Sherlockian manuscripts ("The Nightmare Room", "The Parish Magazine", and "Through the Veil") and some Conan Doyle letters at auction at Swann Galleries in New York on Mar. 19 (Feb 15 #7) all were sold, and with prices nicely above the estimates. You'll find all the details at Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/m4dh2l7>.
132. There's more news about the recently discovered Sherlock Holmes story "Discovering the Border Burghs and, by Deduction, the Brig Bazaar" (Feb 15 #5): a second copy of *THE BOOK OF THE BRIG* has been found in Scotland, this one signed on the cover by Conan Doyle. Mattias Boström has provided what he calls "The Final Word on the Lost Sherlock Holmes" story in a long essay at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/qjooldn>, with some interesting information on Conan Doyle's positive and negative reactions to other pastiches.
133. Deadline Hollywood has reported that Sony Pictures TV has sold "Houdini and Doyle" (a ten-episode mini-series) to Fox, ITV, and Shaw Media; the project involves David Shore (creator of "House") and David Hoselton (producer and writer of "House").
134. *THE ANGEL OF MONS: A WORLD WAR I LEGEND*, by Jerred Metz (Columbia: Singing Bone Press, 2014; 227 pp., \$19.95) is a novel about the battle of Mons and its aftermath; the battle of Mons was the war's first major engagement, and there soon were reports of supernatural forces supporting the British army. Metz paints a vivid picture of the battle, and his characters include Malcolm Leckie (who died of wounds received at Mons); the second part of the novel focuses on a seance conducted by Lily Loder-Symmons for Arthur Conan Doyle and his wife (Malcolm Leckie's sister Jean), Sir Oliver Lodge and his wife, and Sherlock Holmes.
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135. Mar 15 #2: *SOURCES AND METHODS*, by Jon Lellenberg (Santa Fe: Hazelbaker & Lellenberg, 2015; 154 pp., \$20.00 postpaid to the US) is a companion volume to his *BAKER STREET IRREGULAR*, his novel about the early days of the BSI (Sep 10 #1), with detailed annotations about the people, places, and events, factual and fictional, in the novel, and a running account of how the novel was written. Available from the publisher (Box 32181, Santa Fe, NM 87594) or by PayPal to <jonlellenberg@gmail.com>.

136. Peter Jacoby has formed a discussion group, called The Napoleons of Crime, that will focus on Moriarty's potential behind-the-scenes role in various high-profile crimes and international incidents prior to May 1891. Their inaugural meeting will be at the Public Library in Princeton, N.J., on May 29, and their web-site's at <www.thenapoleonsofcrime.com>.
137. Fans of Sherlockian and Doylean and other Old Time Radio will be interested in exploring the Times Past web-site <www.timespast.ning.com>, where a wide variety of audio is available to listen to or download; the Groups include a "Definitive Sherlock Holmes Group" and the OTRR Library's a real treasure trove. Try <www.tinyurl.com/mgxp85a> to hear the readings Nigel Stock made for the BBC of nine short stories in 1976 and 1977, and "The Sign of Four" in 1980. There's also Doyle material available, including "The Lost Special" starring Orson Welles (an episode of "Suspense" in 1943).
138. Don Pollock has noted an imaginative new typeface called Sherlock Pro, designed by Kimmy Kirkwood with a variety of ligatures, swashes, glyphs, and other embellishments; go to <www.tinyurl.com/kjldgcj> to see for yourself.
139. The Lost World isn't quite as lost as it used to be, according to a report from Planet Ark (Feb. 18) <www.planetark.org/wen72776>, noted by The Sydney Passengers in their on-line CyberSignals; Venezuela's Mount Roraima now is visited by 3,000 to 4,000 people a year, some of the more affluent arriving by helicopter.
140. Time for another trivia question: name an actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes.
141. Michael Hayes died on Sept. 16. He had a long career as an actor and then as a director; best known for having directed 14 episodes of the Tom Baker "Doctor Who" series, he also directed "The Retired Colourman" in the 1965 Douglas Wilmer series.
142. Ross E. Davies has an interesting article in the latest issue of The Journal of Law ("Giving It Away at The Strand"), discussing the manuscript of "The Golden Pince-Nez" and reprinted a recently-discovered newspaper version of the story published in the N.Y. World in 1911; you can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/pgooqgj>.
143. The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has occasional Sherlockian content; it's published quarterly, and its web-site <www.strandmag.com> offers links to content from past issues, including (click on "Stories") H. R. F. Keating's amusing homage "Wisteria Lodge" and Barrie Roberts' "The Disappearance of Daniel Question".

144. Mar 15 #3: Name an actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes. Christopher Lee played Mycroft in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and Sherlock in "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992). But there's more: name an actor who played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes in the same production.
145. "Finding Neverland" is a new musical that began previews on Mar. 15, and is scheduled to open at the Lunn-Fontanne Theatre in New York on Apr. 15, with Matthew Morrison as J. M. Barrie and Kelsey Grammer as Charles Frohman; it is based on the film (2004) and is the story of how Barrie was inspired to write "Peter Pan". Conan Doyle had a cameo appearance in the film, but is not listed as a character in the musical, which had its world premiere at Curve in Leicester in 2012, with a reworked version premiering at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge in 2014; there's video and audio at the musical's official web-site at <www.findingneverlandthemusical.com>, and a detailed history of the musical is at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/nv2awjy>.
146. Admirers of the Brigadier Gerard will enjoy watching "How the Brigadier Won His Medal" (a 30-minute "Schlitz Playhouse of the Stars" program broadcast by CBS-TV on July 2, 1954) <www.tinyurl.com/ltqbtwz>. Thanks to Greg Ruby, who reported the video at his web-site <www.fourthgarrideb.com>.
147. An official 2-minute teaser for Ian McKellen's film "Mr. Holmes" is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/kgm723g>. And you'll be able to see the film in theaters starting June 19 in the U.K. and July 17 in the U.S.
148. Gerry Fisher died on Dec. 20. He first worked in British films as a clapper boy in 1946, became an assistant cameraman in 1947, and then went on to a world-wide career as director of photography, with a list of credits that included "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
149. Inspired by the discovery of the Sherlockian parody in THE BOOK O' THE BRIG (Feb 15 #5), Ian Schoenherr has found two early Sherlockian poems written by Charles Joseph Colton and collected in Colton's VOLUME OF VARIOUS VERSE (1899). Read all about it at Ian's blog <www.tinyurl.com/la4ncuz>.
150. It's nice to know that good Sherlockian books find a wide audience: an article in Publishers Weekly (Mar. 6) notes that Pegasus Books has reported that more than 10,000 hardcover copies were sold last year of IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the fine anthology edited by Laurie King and Les Klinger (Oct 14 #1).
151. Phil Attwell notes the death of Britain's last Victorian: Ethel Lang, the last person to have been born during the reign of Queen Victoria, has died at the age of 114. She had lived independently until the age of 105, when she moved to a nursing home.
152. Gillian Barr has noted Lee Jackson's new book DIRTY OLD LONDON: THE VICTORIAN FIGHT AGAINST FILTH (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014; 304 pp., \$34.20), which doesn't mention Sherlock Holmes, but does offer considerable detail on the world into which Holmes was born, and in which he lived. Lee Jackson was interviewed on "Fresh Air" on National Public Radio on Mar. 12, and you can listen to the 14-minute interview at <www.tinyurl.com/mgz7kdm>.

153. Mar 15 #4: Roger Johnson has published 350 issues of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter The District Messenger, and after 32 years at his editorial desk he has handed the excellent newsletter over to Carrie Chandler (who also manages the Society's presence on Facebook and Twitter); current and (all) past issues of the newsletter can be read at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>, and it always is a grand way to keep up with what's going on in the U.K. and elsewhere.
154. DREAMING SPIES, Laurie R. King's 13th Mary Russell novel (Jan 15 #5) made the N.Y. Times best-seller list, and has been well reviewed; she's now at work on her next novel, THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL, due next spring.
155. Howard Ostrom has reported that "Moi Nezhny Liubimyi Detektiv" (1986) now is available at YouTube with English subtitles <www.tinyurl.com/l2lkwac>. "My Dearly Beloved Detective" is a Russian television comedy about the adventures of Shirley Holmes and Jane Watson, who have a detective agency in Baker Street.
156. Congratulations to Patricia Morison, who celebrated her 100th birthday on Mar. 19. She began her acting career in 1935, and her roles included the evil Mrs. Hilda Courtney in Basil Rathbone's "Dressed to Kill" (1946); she has some nice stories to tell, which you can read in her interview in the L.A. Times <www.tinyurl.com/lvkhf88>.
157. "The original BBC Sherlock is back" is the delightful slogan devised by the British Film Institute for its new four-DVD set (region 2 only) with all of the Douglas Wilmer television series from 1964 and 1965 (two of the shows have been reconstructed, since only some of the original footage survived);

- there are nice added features, and the set costs £39.99 at the BFI's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/maba5df>. It's unlikely (alas) that there will be a region 1 or multi-region version of the set.
158. If you'd like to see a larger image of the BFI's imaginative poster, it's available at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>. Or you can take the Underground at the Baker Street station, where the poster's up on the walls.
159. They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Raceway in Saratoga, N.Y., is set for Aug. 1 (with a brunch and scholarly presentations on Aug. 2). To enroll on their mailing list, contact Lou Lewis <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.
160. They're also off and running at Pimlico Race Course in Maryland, where Greg Ruby has revived The Silver Blaze (Southern Division), set for May 23; you can read all about it at <www.fourthgarrideb.com/silver-blaze> (the deadline for reservations is May 8).
161. Name an actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes in the same production; it's Igor Petrenko, in the last episode ("The Hound of the Baskervilles") of the recent Russian "Sherlock Holmes" series (2013). Petrenko plays Sherlock disguised as Mycroft, but both Sherlock and Mycroft are seen (thanks to trick photography) in a scene near the end of the episode.
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162. Mar 15 #5: Barrie Ingham died on Jan. 23. He began his acting career on stage and performed with the Old Vic and the Royal Shakespeare Company, and also appeared in many British and American films and television shows. Sherlockians heard (but didn't see) him when he provided the voice for Basil of Baker Street in "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986).
163. Lyn McConchie's SHERLOCK HOLMES: REPEAT BUSINESS (Rockville: Borgo Press, 2013; 244 pp., \$14.99) is a collection of short stories presenting new mysteries brought to Holmes and Watson by clients they know from Canonical cases; her web-site's at <www.lynmconchie.com>.
164. "The Crime Museum Uncovered" will be the next major exhibition at the Museum of London, opening Oct. 9. Popularly known as the "Black Museum", the Metropolitan Police's Crime Museum was established in 1875 and was (and is) open only to police professionals and invited guests (one of whom was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle). Now everyone will be able to some of the collection's original evidence from crimes such as the Acid Bath Murders and the Great Train Robbery <www.tinyurl.com/odstl7s>.
165. The Baker Street Babes continue to offer interesting material at their web-site <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>. There's a weird video parody ("The Case of the Missing Shoulder") posted on Mar. 14, an announcement of a new book by Maria Fleischhack (DIE WELT DES SHERLOCK HOLMES) on Mar. 15, a book review by Ardy the Shakespearean Ukulele on Mar. 20, and much more.
166. Steven Moffat has confirmed what fans of "Sherlock" who have access to the Internet already knew: the Christmas special is going to be Victorian (fans posted photographs taken during on-location shooting that showed everyone in Victorian costume). He also explained to Entertainment Weekly (Mar. 16) that the special won't involve a costume ball or a dream sequence, but is "kind of in its own little bubble." So: no Tardis, and no explanation (until the start of the fourth season) of Moriarty's reappearance at the end of the third season.
167. The series of thirty Conan Doyle letters <www.tinyurl.com/m5y2h25> pertaining to the Edalji Case that came to auction in London Mar. 18 (estimated at £20,000-£40,000) didn't sell. Another item did sell: a copy of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1894) with Conan Doyle's inscribed calling card, and a typed letter from George Newnes Limited congratulating the winner of a competition in Tit-Bits in 1893; it sold for £1,125 <www.tinyurl.com/l8hyazb>.
168. The three-part mini-series "Arthur & George" aired on ITV in Great Britain this month, starring Martin Clunes as Conan Doyle, and with a script by Ed Whitmore based on the book by Julian Barnes. The script is inventive, and less than faithful to the book as well as to the actual events in the case.
169. WHITECHAPEL'S SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CASEBOOK OF FRED WENSLEY, OBE, KPM--VICTORIAN CRIME BUSTER, by Dick Kirkby (Barnsley: Pen & Sword Books, 2014; 254 pp., £25.00) is the story of a man who became a police officer in 1888 and spent 25 years in Whitechapel, becoming Chief Constable in 1924, and retiring in 1929; the book offers a detailed picture of Whitechapel and real police work in the Sherlockian era (a rather different view that is found in the Canon). It's published in the U.S. by Casemate (\$50.00).
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170. Mar 15 #6: Don Libey died on Mar. 14. He was a highly-regarded expert in the direct marketing industry as well as an author and speaker, an enthusiastic Sherlockian. He was the energetic "Buttons" and Directorat-Small of The John H. Watson Society, wrote the inventive THE BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Oct 13 #1), and produced two excellent vintages from 221B Cellars. You can read Ariana Maher's nice tribute to Don at the society's web-site <www.johnhwatsonsociety.org>.
171. Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention in London on Apr. 24-26 (Feb 15 #8) continues to add to its list of expected guests; the price of tickets ranges from £29 for a one-day pass to £2995 for a VIP pass. Details at <www.sherlocked.com>.
172. Alfred Weiner wants to sell an assortment of Sherlockiana (including a set of 16-2/3 rpm recordings of Basil Rathbone reading four stories, issued by the Audio Book Co. in 1958); he's at <almar@stny.rr.com>, and you can request a copy of his sales list from him.
173. The British company Don't Go into the Cellar continues to tour their "The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes", due at The Place in Bedford on Apr. 4 <www.theplacebedford.org.uk> and elsewhere afterward; you can find information on their shows at <www.dontgointothecellar.com>.
174. The North Platte Community Playhouse will present Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the Neville Center for the Performing Arts in North Platte, Neb., Apr. 10-19 <www.northplattecommunityplayhouse.com>. The play's also being performed at the Tent Theatre at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., June 25-July 3 <www.tenttheatre.com>.
175. "The Valley of Fear" is scheduled at the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion in Philadelphia, Apr. 17-19 <www.ebenzermaxwellmansion.org/sherlock-holmes>; it's the fourth in their series of Sherlock Holmes mysteries.
176. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at St. Stephen's Theater in Philadelphia, May 28-June 28 <www.lanterntheater.org>. And at the Mountain Playhouse in Jennerstown, Pa., Sept. 15-27 <www.mountainplayhouse.org>. And the Globe Theatre in Regina, Sask., Jan. 20-Feb. 7 <www.globetheatrelive.com>.
177. Mark Jones' new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem" is scheduled at the Chorley Little Theatre in Chorley (Lancashire), June 15-20; their web-site's at <www.chorleylittletheatre.com>.
178. Chris Hibbs' "The Curious Case in the Colony" will be performed in the Newman Wine Vaults in St. John's, Newfoundland, July 3 to Aug. 15, during the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival <www.shakespearebytheseafestival.com>.
179. "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (a new musical by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) has been scheduled at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre in Kalamazoo, Mich., in Oct. 2015 <www.kazoocivic.com>.
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180. Apr 15 #1: There were two intriguing Sherlockian celebrations of April Fool's Day this year: one from Minneapolis with a headline announcing "Professor Moriarty's Skull Delivered to the University of Minnesota" <www.tinyurl.com/kwharco>, and the other from Portsmouth reporting "Archive

- Discovery Proves Sherlock Holmes Was a Real Person" <www.tinyurl.com/qz4pgc9> (with an amusing video at the link at the end of the announcement).
181. There's still time to register for "Lippincott's Legacy" (a literary conference honoring the 125th anniversary of the publication of "The Sign of the Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray") scheduled for May 29-31 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (Oct 14 #4); more information is available at <www.lippincottslegacy.org>.
 182. David Fable's THE MURDER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Studio City: Highflyer Press, 2014; 283 pp., \$12.99) begins in 1912, with a London coroner and Dr. Watson examining the body of Sherlock Holmes, and continues with Watson and young Christopher Hudson, the son of Holmes' landlady, investigating a complicated mystery that offers twists and turns, and a new look at the man Watson calls "the perfectly imperfect Sherlock Holmes."
 183. British Pathé continues to add material to its web-site archives, which now offer some 90,000 historic clips <www.britishpathe.com>, and a search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] turns up interesting material. Thanks to Alexander Orlov for the reminder about this delightful resource.
 184. The Museum of London's spectacular exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" has closed, and if you'd like to see what you missed, or recall what you saw, a Catalogue of the Exhibition will soon be published by the Quartering Press. It was compiled by Nicholas Utechin and Catherine Cooke and has a foreword by Exhibition curator Alex Werner, and is illustrated with color plates. The cost of the 96-page catalogue is \$20.00 plus shipping, and you will be able to order it on and after May 11 at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
 185. Tom and Marie O'Day report that Hounds of the Baskervilles is a shop that offers "bespoke electric tattooing" and a "traditional barber and shaving parlour" in Singapore; there's a 2-minute video at <www.vimeo.com/72817640> and their web-site's at <www.houndsofthebaskervilles.net>.
 186. Betsy Rosenblatt's 70-page article on "The Adventure of the Shrinking Public Domain" (just published in the University of Colorado Law Review) is a detailed discussion of intellectual-property protection for literary characters in general, and of Sherlock Holmes in particular, considering both copyright and trademark protection, and the complicated history of the Conan Doyle copyright. Betsy is the director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law and Whittier Law School, and ends her article with some interesting suggestions, which she has summarized with a nod to the cable that Conan Doyle sent to William Gillette: "Creators should be able to draw on public domain characters with confidence--to marry them, murder them, or do what they like with them." You can read (and download) her article without charge at <www.tinyurl.com/obdc4mx>.
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187. Apr 15 #2: THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. DOYLE, by Daniel and Eugene Friedman (Garden City: Square One, 2015; 339 pp., \$29.95), is subtitled as "a journey into madness & mayhem," and is written in alternate chapters, offering a biography of Conan Doyle and a description of a tour he led in 1910 along the trail of Jack the Ripper's murders. The tour is invented, but allows the authors to explain their conclusions about the Ripper, and the dust jacket's front flap promises: "if you maintain a sharp mind and a keen eye, at the end of your journey you may just uncover a truth you never expected to find." They're certainly correct.
 188. "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson will be looking for a rich legacy in Azerbaijan" is the premise of a new comedy "1,000,000 Manat" now being filmed in Baku, according to a report from Alexander Orlov. You can see a photo gallery in Trend Life (Mar. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/o8rrzqk>.
 189. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will run through May 10 at the Perot Museum of Science & Nature in Dallas, Texas, and then move to the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., from June 13 to Sept. 7. The exhibition's also scheduled at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., opening Oct. 15; and at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening Oct. 13, 2016. <www.discoverycube.org> is the web-site for Santa Ana, and <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com> is the web-site for the exhibition.
 190. James C. O'Leary has an interesting essay on "Canonical Connections in Conan Doyle's 'The Winning Shot'" at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/l44fqbt>; the story was published in 1883 in Bow Bells.
 191. Don Pollock has reported THE CHINA COLLECTORS: AMERICA'S CENTURY-LONG HUNT FOR ASIAN ART TREASURES, a new book by Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac (from Palgrave Macmillan). Don notes that while Meyer is a member of The Baker Street Irregulars, the book does not have a section on Baron Gruner, most likely because of its focus on American collectors.
 192. Dana Richards has discovered the Redbeard Brewing Company in Staunton, Va. (their taproom motto is "small batches of big beers"); they describe their 221 Baker Brown as an English Brown Ale "to crave like a Hostess cupcake" <www.redbeardbrews.com>.
 193. David Harnois has added "The Red-Headed League" to his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>; you can listen to or download the dramatized reading, which is done well. "A Case of Identity" is next on his schedule, and you can read Peter Holstrom's interview with David at <www.tinyurl.com/qfxm9th>.
 194. Greg Ruby continues to provide interesting content related to Sherlockian numismatics at The Fourth Garrideb's web-site <www.fourthgarrideb.com>, including a nicely-illustrated discussion of "Where Would Dr. Lysander Starr Have Done His Banking?" And older news of general interest, such as plans by British banks to end the check-clearing system in 2018; according to a spokeswoman for the payments council, "the next generation probably won't even have a checkbook."
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195. Apr 15 #3: The DFN Foundation's plans to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (Dec 14 #6) can now proceed; the BBC reported (Mar. 30) that the Secretary of State will not consider objections raised by the Victorian Society and English Heritage; Norman Stromsoy, the project manager for the school's restoration project, said that Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts could be reassured that Undershaw would be saved, and that its Grade II listing was not in doubt.
 196. A life-size chocolate statue of Benedict Cumberbatch was commissioned by UKTV this month as part of their promotion of a new on-demand channel, and (as might be expected) received a lot of publicity; there's lots of video available at YouTube if you search for [cumberbatch chocolate], including this one <www.tinyurl.com/mea2sv3>, which shows what happened when the 80-pound Belgian chocolate statue was put on display in a London shopping center.
 197. "Sweet pipe tobacco, cherry wood, and fresh rain" is the way Frostbeard Studio aromatically describes its "Sherlock's Study" soy candle (\$16.00) <www.frostbeardstudios.com>; it's also available as a set of six tarts (\$6.00). If you are wondering about the tarts, you just put one in your electric tart warmer and turn it on. An electric tart warmer may not be what you're thinking it is; Frostbeard advises that it's a "great alternative where candles are prohibited or unsafe."
 198. Plan ahead: "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of the next conference in Minneapolis, on June 17-19, 2016, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries.
 199. The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library has mounted an exhibition of "Literary Landscapes" featuring "maps of imaginary places that have accompanied literature for centuries." One of the maps on display is "The Sherlock Holmes Mystery Map" created by Jim Wolnick and Susan Lewis and published in 1987 <www.tinyurl.com/lfl5cpb>.

200. The Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row, one of the few hotels to appear in the Canon under its own name, still is an attractive destination for Sherlockian (and other) tourists. Long the home of the Black Peter Bar, the hotel now also boasts a 221 Restaurant <www.brambletyehotel.co.uk>.
201. Trevor Smith died on Jan. 6. He acted as Trevor Hancock, and began his career on stage in Britain in 1991; he was best known as Kevin Dolan in the television series "Coronation Street", had a small role in Granada's "The Cardboard Box" (1994), and appeared on stage as Selden in the Found Theatre production of Simon Corble's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 2007.
202. The 2015 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 52 pages of scholarship, quizzes, pastiches, and recipes, as well as news of the society and its members. The cost of the annual is \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 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.

203. Apr 15 #4: Stan Freberg died on Apr. 7. Sometimes described as "the father of recorded comedy, he launched his career in 1951 with the soap-opera satire "John and Marsha" and went on to stellar performances on records and radio, and in advertising. He played Sherlock Holmes in three episodes of "The Radio Adventures of Dr. Floyd" (created by Grant Baciocco and Doug Price for Dementia Radio) in 2008; you can listen to episodes 708, 709, and 710 at <www.doctorfloyd.com/media/season7>.
204. An official 2-minute trailer for the UK release of Ian McKellen's film "Mr. Holmes" is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/k7nse8a>; the film opens there on June 19 (and on July 17 in the U.S.).
205. Bill Peschel's anthology THE EARLY PUNCH PARODIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2014; 281 pp., \$15.99) is the result of a wide-ranging search through a magazine that was full of Sherlockiana and Doyleana; the contents include not only parodies but also commentary, reviews, and a story by Conan Doyle himself, all annotated by the editor, who has included an amusing excerpt from the autobiography of Mark Twain: an account of Twain's encounter with Dr. Watson. Peschel's web-site's at <www.peschelpress.com>.
206. Radio Spirits publishes and markets old-time-radio programs, and their web-site offers an interesting Elizabeth McLeod's "spotlight article" on "The Forgotten Holmes: John Gielgud on the Air" <www.tinyurl.com/nq67btg>.
207. M. J. Carter's THE STRANGLER VINE (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2015; 369 pp., \$27.95) is a grand tale set in India in 1837, with interesting heroes and villains; it won high praise from Bernard Cornwell ("an exotic mystery that captivated me"), and according to the publisher contains "sly references to Conan Doyle." And so it does: one of the protagonists is as skilled in observation and deduction as Sherlock Holmes. The novel also offers an interesting and educational look at events that eventually resulted in the Indian Mutiny and Afghan Wars more familiar to Sherlockians and Doyleans. The author's web-site is at <www.mj-carter.com>.
208. Anyone planning to attend the screening of the film at the San Francisco Silent Film Festival may wish to attend a reception hosted by the Scowrsers and Molly Maguires at the Firewood Cafe on the afternoon of May 30. There also will be a luncheon at the historic Catch Restaurant at noon on May 31, and the film will be shown at the Castro Theatre at 7:00 pm. Details are available from Cade Deverell <hattydoran221@gmail.com>.
209. Bonnie MacBird has reported on the film's world premiere in Paris: "Gillette was riveting. In motion you see both the gravitas and humor we expect from the character. Though aging and a bit heavy at the time of the filming, he knew his profile was still good and showed it often. The film offered a rare glimpse at Watson's surgery, and although the Watson character was hardly in it, the actor impressed me with his vitality and handsome looks. The storyline was preposterous and some of the acting laughable. But frankly it held up well and was entertaining. I was pleasantly surprised at Gillette. He avoided the melodramatic posing we come to expect from the silent films, and there were a great many subtle and satisfying moments." And Oscar Ross notes that there's an excellent article about the film in Sight & Sound (Apr. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/qywlpmf>.

210. Apr 15 #5: I WAS THE CAT (Portland: Oni Press, 2014; 191 pp., \$24.99), a graphic novel written by Paul Tobin and illustrated and colored by Benjamin Dewey, offers the story of Burma, a cat who has spent his nine lives trying to achieve world domination; at one point he says, "Let's talk about Sherlock Holmes," and then explains "First...I wasn't associated with Sherlock Holmes, but rather Moriarty, his nemesis," and "Second...it wasn't actually Moriarty, either, but rather Jonathan Wild, one of the men on whom Moriarty was based." That was in one of Burma's previous lives, of course, and neither Burma nor Wild survives that chapter in Burma's story.
211. Sarah Rosenbaum reports that ThinkGeek offers interesting Sherlockian keychains (and other items) <www.tinyurl.com/o36o5oo>.
212. The new Japanese "Sherlock Holmes" television series featuring delightful puppets designed by Bunta Inone (Mar 14 #7) is being released on DVDs, and Alexander Orlov has reported that three episodes are available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/kbab32l>. That's the link to the first episode; click on "Episodes" at the lower left to see links to all three episodes.
213. Adam Zanzie reports that his Indiegogo campaign to raise funds for his thesis project (adapting Conan Doyle's "The Parasite" into a short film) (Feb 15 #4) has been successful: 48 people donated, with a total slightly higher than his goal of \$4,000 <www.tinyurl.com/lqnt4tz>.
214. Big Chief Studios, which produces a series of 1:6 scale Doctor Who figures, has made a pair of licensed figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman as Holmes and Watson <www.bigchiefstudios.co.uk>; their Signature Edition (limited to 400 copies, with display placards signed by the actors and a lithographic print by Alice X. Zhang) costs £439.98 for the pair, and the Limited Edition (1,000 copies) costs £339.98 for the pair. You'll find more information (and better illustrations) at io9.com's Observation Deck <www.tinyurl.com/mk7m79d>.
215. "The Secret History of Hollywood: A Modern Guide to the Golden Age of Cinema" is a series of podcasts by Adam Roche, and "The Game Is Afoot!" (Feb. 5, 2015) is a 138-minute documentary about the Rathbone/Bruce films and radio programs; go to <www.tinyurl.com/ptkfmn8> to listen or download. It's nicely done, with some great stories, nicely told.
216. Robert Ryan's DEAD MAN'S LAND (London: Simon & Schuster UK, 2013; 467 pp., £7.99) is a thriller as well as a mystery: World War I has begun, and Dr. Watson, now a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps, is at the front, with wounded to tend and a series of murders to solve, in a story that shows the reader just how terrible trench warfare was; there are heroes and villains and excellent supporting characters, and the story's well-told indeed.
217. And there's a sequel: THE DEAD CAN WAIT (2014; 463 pp., £7.99), with Watson back in England, involved in the project that led to the development of the "land-ship" that's intended to end the stalemate on the Western Front; this time there are politicians as well as heroes and villains, and agents and spies, and (at last) Sherlock Holmes, along with some nice surprises and a cliff-hanger ending. The series will continue with A STUDY IN MURDER, and the author's interesting web-site's at <www.robtryan.com>.

218. Apr 15 #6: Howard Ostrom's "In Search of...Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Chronological Reference List of Autobiographies, Biographies, and Quasi-Biographies" is a new annotated compilation, and an excellent demonstration of how much has been written by so many about Conan Doyle; Ross K. Foad has made the file available for download at his "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/o929622>.

219. Tom Alderman reviewed Dan Simmons' Henry James/Sherlock Holmes pastiche *THE FIFTH HEART* for the Huffington Post (Apr. 21), noting that there are 18,536 Sherlock Holmes titles on Amazon. "Certainly a strong testament to the enduring quality of the series and the several authors who have kept the series thriving all these years."
220. There's an annual Letters About Literature Essay Contest in which students (grades 4 through 12) write to an author who has changed their view of the world or themselves, and of this year's winners in Minnesota this year was Soren Eversoll, who wrote to Arthur Conan Doyle. Soren became a member of The Norwegian Explorers at the age of 7 and is now 13. His winning letter is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/q8fp6ka>.
221. Ross E. Davies' interesting article about "The Regulatory Adventure of the Two Norwood Builders: Sherlock Holmes Crosses Paths with Congress, the President, the Courts, and the Administrative State, in the Press" has appeared in the 2015 Green Bag Almanac & Reader, and it's also nicely available online at <www.tinyurl.com/k3c4wcr>.
222. Thomas Watson's *THE TRUE MYSTERY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK* (Greentown: Wicked Good Books, 2015; 142 pp., \$7.95) actually was written by Alf Dotson to amuse Sherlockian and Shakespeareans; allegedly found in the Jamestown Shakespeare Manuscripts, the story's an account of the involvement of Sherlock Homes James (who in the cover photograph looks remarkably like Robert Downey Jr.) in events later dramatized by William Shakespeare. There also is a contest, with a cash prize offered to the person who reports the most Conan Doyle titles concealed in the text. Details on the contest, and much more, will be found at <www.wickedgoodbooks.com>.
223. "Long Live the Personal Library" is the title of a blog by Gracy Olmstead for The American Conservative (Apr. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/l4cyxjl>, kindly reported by Paul Herbert. It was occasioned by William Giraldis' "Object Lesson" essay for the New Republic (Apr. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/pok99xn>, and both will be interesting to bibliophiles.
224. One hears of Conan Doyle everywhere: Ian Schoenherr has discovered J. H. A. Gunther's *A MANUAL OF ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION & GRAMMAR FOR THE USE OF DUTCH STUDENTS* (Groningen: J. B. Wolters, 1899), with many citations from Conan Doyle's writings (Sherlockian and otherwise); the manual is available (and searchable) on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/oqo34cp>.
225. Randall Stock reports that the enhanced version of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust web-site is up and running <www.bsitrust.org>, with historical information about BSI annual dinners (from 1934 through 1951, with more to come), the oral history project (inaugurated with the reminiscences of Russell Merritt), correspondence, memorabilia, and much more.

226. Apr 15 #7: The Proms, the world's largest music festival, was launched in 1895 at the Queen's Hall in London, and this year will include "Sherlock Holmes: A Musical Mind" at the Albert Hall on Aug. 16, saluting "a crime-fighting violin virtuoso who wrote a pioneering study of Dutch sacred music, tussled with a contralto from the Warsaw Opera, and used Offenbach to outwit a pair of jewel thieves" <www.bbc.co.uk/events/egnrzc>. The event will be broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 (and available at the BBC web-site for 30 days).
227. There was far more to H. F. Heard's "Mr. Mycroft" than is found in *A TASTE HONEY* (1941), available in a Blue Dolphin reprint (Oct 09 #8). Many have suspected that Mr. Mycroft is really an elderly Sherlock Holmes, and Heard wrote about him in two more novels and two short stories, all now available from Blue Dolphin in *REPLY PAID*, with a foreword by Paul D. Herbert (2014; 199 pp., \$16.95), and *THE NOTCHED HAIRPIN*, with a foreword by Christopher Pittard (2014; 147 pp., \$15.95). Heard was an inventive writer, and had a lot of fun with Mr. Mycroft; Christopher Morley is reported to have said of *REPLY PAID*: "For tastes that are Baker Street and Irregular, this as good as Mrs. Hudson's curried kedgeriee."
228. The 56th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze (the world's oldest and still-active annual Sherlockian horse race) will be held on Oct. 17 at the Hawthorne Race Course; if you'd like to attend the festivities, details are available from Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
229. The Royal Mail has commemorated the bicentenary of the birth of Anthony Trollope (1815-1892) famous as a novelist, he also introduced the freestanding postbox in 1852, when he was working at the Post Office, and the stamps show his portrait and the first pillar box. And of course there's a Sherlockian connection: "The Great Trollope Mystery", an amusing pastiche that was written by Angela Milne and published in *Punch* (July 9, 1980), in which she has Holmes analyzing and explaining an apparent error in Trollope's *THE WARDEN*, in much the same way that Sherlockian scholars and pseudo-scholars have, for so many years, years explained (or explained away) the mistakes and contradictions they've found in the Canon.
230. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder continue their series of podcast interviews for "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" with a discussion with the editors of the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript series *OUT OF THE ABYSS* (devoted to "The Empty House"); you can listen to (and download) the conversation at <www.tinyurl.com/pg2aun4>. Scott also reports a new subtitled-in-English version of the amusing Russian animation "Sherlock Holmes and I" (1985) at <www.tinyurl.com/otqdaq>.
231. "Saturday-Night Theatre: Conan Doyle Investigates" was a 90-minute program broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on May 6, 1972, written by Roger Woddiss and dramatizing Sir Arthur's involvement in the George Edalji case, starring Carleton Hobbs as Conan Doyle. The program has been uploaded to YouTube, and is available at <www.tinyurl.com/masr5c6>. Add Carleton Hobbs to the list of actors who have portrayed both Conan Doyle and Holmes.

232. Apr 15 #8 Roger Johnson notes that Valerie Osment, who designed the imaginative Sherlock Holmes BookBench last year (May 14 #5), has now designed a Sherlock Holmes Dragon for the GoGo Dragons 2015 festival in Norwich <www.gogodragons.co.uk>. GoGo Dragon Sherlock, sponsored by a real estate agency called Watsons, tweets at <www.twitter.com/gogoshlock>.
233. And (as usual) there's theater: Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Pocahontas County Opera House, in Marlinton, W.V., May 15-16 <www.pocahontasoperahouse.org>.
234. "The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" (a new open-air production by the Chapterhouse Theatre Company) will have its premiere at East Town Park in Haverhill (Suffolk) on June 12 and then go on tour; their schedule's available at <www.chapterhouse.org/show5.html>.
235. The Twin Beach Players will present "Sherlock Holmes and the Most Amazing Case!" (a new play by Matthew Konerth) in North Beach, Md., on June 18-28 <www.twinbeachplayers.com>.
236. The Ottawa Story Tellers will present "The Game's Afoot: Stories of Sherlock Holmes" at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Ont., on June 18, 2015 <www.nac-cna.ca>.
237. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at the Florida Studio Theatre in St. Petersburg, Fla., July 1-Aug. 2 <www.floridastudiotheatre.org>.
238. David Stuart Davies will present his new one-man show "The Game's Afoot: An Encounter with Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle" during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre, Aug. 12-14 <www.edfringe.com>.
239. Aquila Theatre's touring production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play written by Desiree Sanchez) opens at the Pollak Theatre in Monmouth, N.J., on Oct. 1 and continues on tour until Mar. 20, 2016; details can be found at <www.aquilatheatre.com/touring>.
240. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Erie Playhouse in Erie, Pa., Oct. 16-Nov. 1 <www.erieplayhouse.org>.

241. "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Red-Headed League" is scheduled by the East Lynne Theater Company at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 6-7, 2015 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
242. "Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular" (a new play by Brian Guehring) will be performed at the Rose Theater in Omaha, Neb., Nov. 6-22 <www.rosetheater.org>.
243. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled by the Philadelphia Theatre Company at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre in Philadelphia on Nov. 27-Dec. 27 <www.philadelphiatheatrecompany.org>.

244. May 15 #1: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) will be released on Blu-ray/DVD by Flicker Alley on Oct. 20, with subtitles in French or English, an original musical score and other added features <www.tinyurl.com/mu8kfrk>, and you can pre-order now from Flicker Alley (\$29.95).
245. Criminal Element is an interesting blog, with plenty of Sherlockian content <www.criminalelement.com>. Search for [lyndsay faye] to find "Strangers on a Train, or When Sherlock Met Jane" (in which Lyndsay and Ashley Weaver describe a thoroughly imaginative encounter between Sherlock Holmes and Miss Jane Marple), and for [chad eagleton] to find his discussion of "Sherlock Holmes and the Killer Bees" (about H. F. Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY).
246. A fine example of outreach: Tim Johnson, the curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Library, recently paid a visit to the Rushford-Peterson High School to talk to the students, and KIMT-TV had a nice report on the event <www.tinyurl.com/nor7v6w>.
247. The catalog for the Museum of London's exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" (Apr 15 #1) is now available for purchase at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/london.html>, and Randall Stock has a fine report on the exhibition and on the catalog at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/otqkpzx>, with some interesting links to follow. The catalog is spectacular, with full-color illustrations of original artwork by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele (a rough sketch of Holmes in disguise as an old woman in "The Mazarin Stone"), a bust of Sherlock Holmes sculpted by Frederick L. Wilkins and presented to Conan Doyle in the 1890s, and much more.
248. The Leisy Premiere Theatre, a television series broadcast in Cleveland in 1963 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Leisy Brewing Company, presented full-length feature films and was hosted by Basil Rathbone; you can see him in action at <www.tinyurl.com/mdckrb5>.
249. There's another trailer for Ian McKellen's film "Mr. Holmes" available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/phju2yg>; the film opens in the U.K. on June 19, and on July 17 in the U.S.
250. John F. Farrell ("The Tiger of San Pedro") died on May 7. He loved music and theater, and for many years wrote reviews for newspapers in the Los Angeles area, and he was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, collaborating with Sean Wright on their SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK (1976), and presiding over three Sherlockian societies: The Tigers of San Pedro, The Great Hiatus (for Sherlockians who corresponded by foreign translations), and The 140 (for Sherlockians who smoked tobacco). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1981.
251. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) is scheduled at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul <www.smm.org> from Oct. 14 to Jan. 3, 2016. More information on the exhibit is available at the Wonderworks web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24b4fyy>.

252. May 15 #2: "All the Sherlock Holmes stories were enthusiasms of mine," Agatha Christie wrote in 1966 in a letter to Evelyn B. Byrne; the letter is coming to auction on June 11 at Profiles in History (estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000) <www.profilesinhistory.com>; Christie's letter was published in ATTACKS OF TASTE (1971), edited by Byrne and Otto M. Penzler, along with letters and essays by other authors on their childhood literary influences (New York: Gotham Book Mart, 1971). Holmes and Conan Doyle also were mentioned by Eric Ambler, Kay Boyle, John Cheever, Ralph Ellison, Christopher Isherwood, Henry Miller, Ogden Nash, and Louis Simpson, but their letters aren't in the auction.
253. Karen Murdock spotted Detective Handswell, created by Chris Whitmore Associates <www.cwa.co.uk/hanswell> for Hull Trains in England; he appears in on-board notices that advise passengers to stay safe, by avoiding accidents with hot drinks, being cautious at level crossings, and standing clear of closing doors.
254. Grant Eustace's ABSOLUTE DISCRETION, published by Calabash Press in 1997, is an interesting novel that is set in Somerset and features a young detective who is visiting from Oxford and calls himself Arthur Vernet. There are nice (and nicely appropriate) echoes from the Canon, and the book is available at Amazon and at Abebooks.
255. "Goodness Gracious Me" was a British 30-minute series broadcast on BBC Radio 4 from 1996 to 1998, and on BBC-2 television from 1998 to 2001; Howard Ostrom notes that there was a "Goodness Gracious Me Reunion Special" that was broadcast on BBC-2 in 2014, with a 1-minute segment ("Everything Comes from India") in which Sanjeev Bhaskar explains to Kulvinder Ghir why "Sherlock" is such a good series <www.tinyurl.com/qz6cpfs>.
256. The awards ceremony of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts included a Radio Times Audience Award to "Sherlock"; it's the only BAFTA on which the public votes, from a list of nominees selected by an expert jury ("Sherlock" beat out "Game of Thrones" and "EastEnders").
257. Nigel Terry died on Apr. 30. He began his acting career on stage in repertory in Britain, went on to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company, appeared as King John in the film "The Lion in Winter" (1968) and as King Arthur in "Excaliber" (1981), and in many roles on television, including Harold Latimer in Peter Cushing's "The Greek Interpreter" (1968).
258. Neil Gaiman has an official Tumbler, where he recently was asked: "What's the BSI like? Do you all plot world domination behind those doors? Also--if you're allowed to say this out loud--what's your title there?" You can read his answers at <www.tinyurl.com/p62w5nh>.
259. Alphonse Bertillon and his system for identifying criminals are mentioned in two stories in the Canon ("The Naval Treaty" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), and the Independent had an excellent story (May 17) about Bertillon <www.tinyurl.com/lm8sbz2>, with mention of an exhibition on "Forensics: The Anatomy of Crime" at the Wellcome Museum in London through June 21 <www.wellcomecollection.org/forensics>.

260. May 15 #3: VICE News (a global news channel founded in 2013) has an interesting on-line interview with Marcel Jaurant Singer, at the age of 94 the last living member of the Baker Street Irregulars. This BSI was the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters Baker Street during World War Two (and was sometimes called the "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare") <www.tinyurl.com/kac3dlv>.
261. Al Gregory has discovered The Sherlockian Violin Society (for Sherlockians who play or appreciate the violin) <www.sherlockianviolinsociety.com>. The web-site includes links to sheet music for the themes for the Jeremy Brett and Benedict Cumberbatch television series.
262. Robert Rietti died on Apr. 3. A British actor best known for his voice, he worked in films and on radio and television, and specialized in voice dubbing; according to his obituary in the Guardian, in the 1970 film "Waterloo" he was heard talking to himself four times while providing no fewer than 98 voices. Credited at Robert Rietty, he acted in the Gielgud/Richardson radio series in 1954, and then in the Hobbs/Shelley radio series (he played Gennaro in "The Red Circle" (1969).

263. Sherlockian who are still writing old-fashioned paper checks will welcome Greg Ruby's report that Sherlock-Holmes-themed personalized checks now are available in four designs, which you can see in full color at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/q8h4jy3>.
264. Some will recall the "five orange peeps" that were sent to Sherlockians in 2003, in a devious plan conceived by the John Farrell and executed by Kevin Reed (Dec 03 #5). Peeps are gooey little marshmallow chicks that have been made for more than 60 years, and they're now theatrical, in a fashion: the Washington Post has held a Peeps Diorama Contest since 2007, and this year one of the more than 400 entries was "The Many Faces of Benedict Cumberpeep", submitted by Pamela Winston and Leonard Bailey, who honored Benedict Cumberbatch's performances as Julian Assange, Alan Turing, Sherlock Holmes, Khan, and Smaug. They didn't win, unfortunately, but they made the top 50, and you can see them all in a slide-show at <www.tinyurl.com/otwe496>. Benedict Cumberpeep is in image #11.
265. Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger's *IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLMES CANON* is one of the nominees for an Anthony Award (best anthology or collection) at Bouchercon 2015 in Raleigh, N.C., Oct. 8-11.
266. Fans of "Sherlock" may enjoy hearing some of the love letters exchanged by Sherlock Holmes and Molly Hooper: there's an 11-minute video of them reading the letters at <www.simongarfield.com>. Okay (spoiler alert): they're actually letters exchanged by Chris Barker and Bessie Moore during the Second World War, published in Simon Garfield's *MY DEAR BESSIE: A LOVE STORY IN LETTERS* (2015). Some of the letters were read by Benedict Cumberbatch and Louise Brealey (aka Sherlock and Molly in the television series) at the Hay Festival last year (there are two videos at Garfield's web-site, and at YouTube), and for a 45-minute program broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on Apr. 20.

267. May 15 #4: T. S. Eliot's poem "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" has long been a favorite of Sherlockians because of its amusing homage to Moriarty, and a new book suggests a possible source for the name: Eliot went to high school with a boy named Ronald A. MacAvity, as noted by Robert Crawford in his *YOUNG ELIOT: FROM ST. LOUIS TO THE WASTE LAND* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015; 512 pp., \$35.00).
268. Ruth Rendell died on May 2. She was a noted mystery writer with more than 60 books to her credit, many of them featuring her most famous detective, Chief Inspector Reginald Wexford. She was the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's guest of honor at their annual dinner in 2009, and contributed an interesting introduction to that year's new edition of *THE PENGUIN COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES*.
269. Gloria Alden's *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY CLUB* (Willow Knolls Press, 2013; 199 pp., \$7.95) has students in a third-grade class involved in an exchange of correspondence with an elderly woman who's in pursuit of jewel thieves; the author's web-site is at <www.gloriaalden.com>.
270. The 2015 edition of the Green Bag Almanac & Reader includes a "new lawyerly edition" of "The Norwood Builder" with annotations by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians who responded to the journal's request for contributions last year (Oct 14 #4), and other interesting Sherlockian content (together with much non-Sherlockian material such as a selection of "exemplary legal writing" from 2014). It's nicely done indeed, and a few copies of the 662-page volume available without charge to those who send requests (with postal addresses) to Ross E. Davies <rdavies@greenbag.org>. Ross reports that similar attention will be paid to "The Reigate Puzzle" in the next edition; you will find more information about this at <www.greenbag.org>.
271. If you remember the MG as a classy British two-seat open sports car, that's what it used to be: the company was founded in 1924, but the MG marque now owned by SAIC Motor, a Chinese company that has hired Benedict Cumberbatch to help launch the new MG GS <www.tinyurl.com/mhvpj8k>. The commercial has nice Sherlockian echoes.
272. Russian tycoon Alexander Perepilichnyy has died in England under mysterious circumstances; he was a major critic of Vladimir Putin, as was Sergei Magnitsky, who had alleged that Russian officials has carried out large-scale theft and then died in prison in Moscow in 2009 (Nov 13 #3). Perepilichnyy was thought to have died from natural causes, but an autopsy showed traces of a rare plant poison in his stomach and British authorities have launched a full inquest. The rare plant poison was gelsemium, and the British press has noted that Arthur Conan Doyle wrote about gelsemium in the *British Medical Journal* in 1879, after experimenting on himself with the poison to see if it was effective in treating pain.
273. It is reported (although not confirmed) that BBC Radio 4 will broadcast a dramatization of Laurie R. King's "The Beekeeper's Apprentice" on June 9-12, in four 30-minute episodes; you can check the schedule at the BBC Radio 4 web-site <www.tinyurl.com/otakyuk>. The mini-series was first broadcast in 2000, with Monica Dolan (Mary Russell), James Fox (Sherlock Holmes), and Shaun Prendergast (Dr. Watson).

274. May 15 #5: The Conan Doyle Estate has filed a copyright and trademark lawsuit against Miramax and others, alleging that Ian McKellen's new film "Mr. Holmes" has infringed on the last ten Sherlock Holmes stories still protected by copyright. The lawsuit targets Miramax (the producer of the film), Roadside Attractions (the film's distributor in the U.S.), William Condon (the film's director), Mitch Cullin (who wrote the book *A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND*, on which the film is based, and shares credit for writing the film's script), and Penguin Random House (which published the book in 2005).
275. The Estate demands a jury trial, an injunction against the release of the film (now scheduled for July 17 in the U.S.), and payment to the Estate of its costs and all profits from the film. You can read the entire 24-page "Complaint for Injunctions and Damages" at <www.tinyurl.com/qdryu5o>.
276. Museum Replicas offers an interesting variety of Sherlockian merchandise, including a Sherlock Holmes statue (\$95.00), coat (\$65.00), and deerstalker (\$19.00), and a Victorian sword cane (\$95.00). Box 840, Conyers, GA 30012 (800-883-8838) <www.museumreplicas.com>.
277. Joseph C. Camana died on Apr. 27. He worked as an artist for more than 70 years, in the U.S. Army during World War II and then as a freelance commercial artist, including illustrations for *CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, adapted by William Kottmeyer and published in 1947.
278. National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition" (May 3) celebrated Orson Welles' 100th birthday with a 6-minute segment that focused on his work on radio, with (of course) due attention to his appearance as Sherlock Holmes for the Mercury Radio Theatre in 1938 <www.tinyurl.com/npzrhdnd>.
279. Barry S. Brown's *MRS. HUDSON IN NEW YORK* (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 273 pp., \$16.95) is the fourth in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series, in which Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case involving the attempted murder of J. P. Morgan, an encounter with Samuel Clemens, and combat with the Pinkertons. The publisher's web-sites are <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
280. More from MX: *THE EGYPTIAN CURSE* (2015; 178 pp., \$9.95) is the third in a series by Dan Andriacco and Kieran McMullen that stars Enoch Hale, an American reporter in London in 1924 and now a suspect in a murder, which he has to solve himself; his investigation involves P. G. Wodehouse, Leonard and Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot, Howard Carter, Agatha Christie, and (eventually). Sherlock Holmes. David Ruffle's *HOLMES AND WATSON: AN AMERICAN ADVENTURE* (2015; 140 pp., \$9.95) brings Holmes and Watson to New York, so that Holmes can lecture at a training academy for the city's police force (and help solve a murder), and to Fall River, where Holmes solves two more murders and has a chance to meet Lizzie Borden and review the records of the murders of her father and stepmother. Daniel D. Victor's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BARON OF BREDE PLACE* (2015; 235 pp., \$14.95) is the second in his "Sherlock Holmes and the American Literati" series, presenting a somewhat different version of "Charles Augustus Milverton" that has Stephen Crane as another victim of blackmail, in case that also involved Joseph Conrad and H. G. Wells.

281. May 15 #6: Elliott M. Black has died. He had a long career in engineering and marketing, and was a member of Sherlockian societies in and near Chicago; he also was an avid magician and mentalist (performing as Michael Elliott): he presented "The Sherlock Holmes of Thought" at Bouchercon in Baltimore in 1986, and at the Baskerville Bash during the birthday festivities in 1999, and greatly enjoyed entertaining his fellow Sherlockians.
282. And as always, there's Sherlockian theater, on-going and up-coming: "Holmes and Watson Save the Empire: A Musical Mystery" (by Jahanna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner) will be produced at the Metro Theatre in Vancouver, B.C., June 17-28 <metrotheatre.com>.
283. Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be performed at the Pioneer Playhouse in Danville, Ky., July 21-Aug. 1 <www.pioneerplayhouse.com>.
284. "Impossible" (a new play by Robert Khan and Tom Salinsky about Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle) is scheduled at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland, Aug. 5-31 <www.edfringe.com>.
285. The Fringe also will include a presentation by the Ghostwriters of "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" (Aug. 6-30) and David Stuart Davies' solo performance of his "The Game's Afoot: An Encounter with Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" (Aug. 12-14).
286. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Magenta Theater in Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 25-Oct. 17 <www.magentatheater.com>. And it will be presented by the Lake Dillon Theatre Company at their theater in Dillon, Colo., Nov. 20-Dec. 13 <www.lakedillontheatre.org>.
287. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) will be performed at the Garvin Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., Oct. 16-31 <www.theatregroupsbcc.com>.
288. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is scheduled at the Renton Civic Theatre in Renton, Wash., from Dec. 4 to Dec. 19 <www.rentoncivictheatre.org>.
289. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Blackfriars Theatre in Rochester, N.Y., from Dec. 11 to Jan. 3, 2016 <www.blackfriars.org>.
290. "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Great Nome Gold Rush" (a new comedy by Joseph Vass) will debut at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Calif., Jan. 13-Feb. 7, 2016 <www.northcoastrep.org>.
291. "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized from Nicholas Meyer's novel by Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge) is due at the Black Box Theatre in Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 15-24, 2016 <www.blackboxdrama.com>, and at the Hylton Performing Arts Center on the Prince William Campus of George Mason Univ. in Manassas, Va., Mar. 11-20, 2016 <www.hyltoncenter.org>.

292. Jun 15 #1: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" had its American premiere in San Francisco on May 31, and was well received by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians alike. As was the case at the screening Culpeper, Va., on June 13, during the fourth annual "Mostly Lost" conference at the Library of Congress' National Audio-Visual Conservation Center <www.tinyurl.com/o9be5jc>. It is wonderful that the film has been found and can be seen again after so many years, and it's a delight to be able to watch Gillette's performance. His last performance as Holmes was at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J., on May 12, 1930, which suggests that there's no one left who actually saw him perform live, but now everyone can see him as Holmes on film.
293. Those who enjoyed seeing the film in San Francisco also have a nice lapel pin to commemorate the occasion. There's much to praise about the film, which is a restoration of the four-part serial discovered in Paris, rather than an attempt to recreate the film as originally screened in the U.S. It's grand indeed to be able to see Gillette's underplayed natural acting style, praised so highly in print for more than a century: he doesn't need to show that he's the smartest person in the room, because you can see for yourself that he really is just that. One of the nicest accolades for Gillette, by the way, came from Orson Welles, who said that "it's too little to say that William Gillette resembled Sherlock Holmes; rather, Sherlock Holmes looked exactly like William Gillette." And the film is being screened widely: at Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn., on Sept. 18-20, and quite possibly elsewhere.
294. As noted last month (May 15 #1), the film will be released on Blu-ray/DVD by Flicker Alley on Oct. 20, with subtitles in French or English, an original musical score and other added features <www.tinyurl.com/mu8kfrk>; you can pre-order now from Flicker Alley (\$29.95), and it's highly recommended. There has been considerable publicity for the film, both in the press and on-line, and you can read Tim Greer's review (from San Francisco) at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pwxpk6z>. Issue 59 of the blog EatDrinkFilms <www.tinyurl.com/p4b4nrx> offered Thomas Gladysz' interesting commentary on Gillette, with a video trailer that includes a brief glimpse of Paul Singleton as Holmes.
295. And there's a bit more: if you'd like to know what it was like to see William Gillette performing on stage, you can read what Vincent Starrett had to say, in Ray Betzner's blog "Studies in Starrett" <www.tinyurl.com/oxw3rv9>.
296. Finally (perhaps), there's a splendid accompaniment to the film: The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's LE GUIDE DU FILM SHERLOCK HOLMES (1916), a 64-page profusely-illustrated discussion of the film and its actors, with articles by Thierry Saint-Joanis and Bernard Oudin, with press reviews from the original release; it's almost all in English (Thierry has said that he has been asked by members of the Société if he's going to publish a French translation of the book), and costs €20.00 at <www.sshf.com/boutique.php>, where you can see thumb-nail images showing the results of their splendid research. It has been a long time since I've devoted an entire page of the newsletter to anything, but the film and the book are well worth it.

297. Jun 15 #2: The Broadway production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" has won five Tony awards. The play, dramatized by Simon Stephens from Mark Haddon's novel, won for best play, best performance by an actor in a leading role (Alex Sharp), best scenic design (Bunny Christie and Finn Ross), best lighting design (Paule Constable), and best direction (Marianne Elliott).
298. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Fadó Irish Pub in Denver on June 3, welcomed by members of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Our next meetings will be on Nov. 4 in Baltimore, and on June 22, 2016, in Calgary.
299. Julie Harris died on May 30. She had a long career as a costume designer in British films, perhaps best-known for her work for The Beatles in 1965, when she said "I must be one of the few people who can claim they have seen John, Paul, George, and Ringo naked." She preferred creating period costumes, and is credited for "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983).
300. Nicholas Utechin is preparing a short monograph on the British society The Milvertonians of Hampstead, which was founded by Humphrey Morton and Peter Richard in 1958. Nick is in urgent need of a photograph of Peter Richard, and would welcome hearing from anyone who can help; you can reach Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.
301. MYCROFT HOLMES, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (New York: Titan Books, 2015; 323 pp., \$25.99), is set in 1870, when Mycroft, 23 years old, a secretary to the Secretary of State for War, and in love with a beautiful blonde, finds himself involved in a bizarre intrigue that takes him to the Caribbean, where he finds perilous adventure and an interesting assortment of friends and foes.

302. "What Happened After Sherlock Rescued Irene?" was the question Steven Moffat was asked at the "Sherlocked" convention in London in April, and you can read his amusing answer at the Sherlockology web-site: click on the "News & Events" link at <www.sherlockology.com>. The short answer is that he wrote but didn't film a scene that would have ended with Sherlock naked. You can also read transcripts of the opening panel with the creators of the series, and of Benedict Cumberbatch's panel, and there's lots more to be found at this interesting web-site.
303. Tim Dedopulos' SHERLOCK HOLMES' ELEMENTARY PUZZLES (London: Carlton, 2014; 143 pp., £7.99) offers 71 "riddles, enigmas, and challenges," non-Sherlockian but presented by Holmes and others in the Canon.
304. Bill Peschel's anthology THE EARLY PUNCH PARODIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2014; 281 pp., \$15.99) is the result of a wide-ranging search through a magazine that was full of Sherlockiana and Doyleana; the contents include not only parodies but also commentary, reviews, and a story by Conan Doyle himself, all annotated by the editor, who has included an amusing excerpt from the autobiography of Mark Twain: an account of Twain's encounter with Dr. Watson. Peschel's web-site's at <www.peschelpress.com>.
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305. Jun 15 #3: Further to the report (May 15 #2) on Agatha Christie's letter to Evelyn B. Byrne, Ray Betzner has blogged about the letter from Vincent Starrett that wasn't included in ATTACKS OF TASTE, and about Byrne and Otto Penzler, and about their book and their correspondence with Starrett; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/qeqbocd>.
306. They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Raceway in Saratoga, N.Y., is set for Aug. 1 (with a brunch and scholarly presentations on Aug. 2). For details on how to register, contact Lou Lewis <llewis@lewisgreer.com>.
307. Christopher Lee died on June 7. A consummate actor, he made more than 250 films, often as villains, but also as heroes and supporting characters. He played Sir Henry Baskerville in Peter Cushing's film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" [Sherlock Holmes and the Necklace of Death] (1962), Mycroft Holmes in Robert Stephens' film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and Holmes again in the television films "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992); he also was the host of the television documentary "The Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes" (1986), and read "The Valley of Fear" for Listen for Pleasure (1993).
308. The Bootmakers of Toronto's annual running of The Silver Blaze at Woodbine Racetrack will be held on July 11 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
309. It isn't just people who are trying to buy homes that have been affected by the soaring real-estate prices in London: rents are going up as well. Criterion Capital, landlord of the Criterion Restaurant, has increased the annual rent to £850,000 (up from £525,000), and the 140-year-old restaurant has gone into administration [which is essentially the same as filing for bankruptcy]. The restaurant's still open, so you can visit the plaque honoring Watson and Stamford's historic meeting at the Criterion's Long Bar
310. Ron Moody died on June 11. He was most famous as Fagin in the musical "Oliver" on stage in the West End and Broadway and on film (1968), and went on to many roles on stage, screen, and television, including Sherlock Holmes in Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988).
311. Marcus Geisser and Helen Dorey were married on May 23 at the Church of St. Cross in Winchester, and have now honeymooned, reporting that "Frau Geisser passed the ultimate honeymoon test: crossing the Splügen Pass successfully and reaching the lovely village of Splügen. For those who have not read the entire Canon, the ultimate honeymoon test will be found in "The Illustrious Client".
312. "I bear warmest felicitations from Her Majesty The Queen, Professor Stephen Hawking, James Bond, Sherlock Holmes, and the entire cast of Downton Abbey. I think that covers all the important people in England." That was the opening of the speech given at Hillsdale College's commencement ceremony this year by Michael Ward (fellow of Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford, and professor of apologetics at Houston Baptist University), reprinted in the May/June issue of Imprimis (Hillsdale College's readers monthly). The complete speech is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nsylo8>.
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313. Jun 15 #4 There were some familiar names on the Queen's New Year's honors list: Benedict Cumberbatch was appointed CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), for services to the performing arts and to charity, and Martin Clunes and Steven Moffat were appointed OBEs (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), for services to drama. In case you haven't been watching television, Benedict Cumberbatch plays Sherlock Holmes in the "Sherlock" series co-created by Steven Moffat. and Martin Clunes played Conan Doyle in the mini-series "Arthur & George".
314. Ralph Wroblewski ("Captain Teddy Marvin") died on Apr. 25. He had a long career as a teacher and principal in Catholic high schools in Cleveland, and in 1972 he was a founder and charter member of Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers of Cleveland, and served as their secretary. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1976.
315. "Sherlock Holmes: Consulting Detective" was first a board game (Dec 81 #3) and then a CD-ROM disk game (Dec 91 #1), and then a DVD game (Nov 99 #4). Now Flickering Myth has reported <www.tinyurl.com/q9tvayk> that Zojoi has remastered the three 30-minute games for PC on Stream. The Zojoi web-site for the game is at <www.zojoi.com/sherlock>.
316. On Oct. 15, 1969, The Times and the Daily Mirror reported (based on a dispatch from Reuters) that Moscow television seemed to think that Dr. Watson was a secret communist, noting that a television program broadcast in the Soviet Union the day before showed Watson reading the Morning Star, a Communist newspaper published in Britain. Alexander Orlov has discovered that the program apparently was a dramatization of "The Second Stain" (part of a longer program titled "Ministers and Detectives"); does anyone have additional information on the broadcast?
317. THE DEAD ASSASSIN, by Vaughn Entwistle (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 338 pp., \$26.99) is the second novel in his series taken from "the paranormal casebooks of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," and it has Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde dealing with bizarre murders and a dire plot against the realm in a story that's more science fiction than paranormal. The author's web-site is at <www.vaughnentwistle.com>.
318. Transformative Works and Cultures (a journal published by the Organization for Transformative Works) has issued a call for papers for a special issue on "Sherlock Holmes Fandom, Sherlockiana, and the Great Game" (to be published in Mar. 2017); the deadline for submissions is Mar. 1, 2016, and you will find more information at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nckrpor>.
319. Patrick Macnee died on June 25. Best known for playing John Steed in the television series "The Avengers", he began his acting career in Britain at the age of 11 on stage in a production of "Henry V" (with a young Christopher Lee), and had a long list of film and television credits, among them Dr. Watson in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), David Worth (a psychotic former British secret agent who believes he's Sherlock Holmes) in "Magnum, P.I.: Holmes Is Where the Heart Is" (1984), Watson in "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" and "Sherlock Holmes: The Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992), and Holmes in the television film "The Hound of London" (1993).
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320. Jun 15 #5: The spring issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, its new web-site, additions to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and an article by Harvard student George Mills on his research in the Archives for his senior

- thesis on the BSI as a pioneering fan community. The issue is available both at the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, send a request to Mike Berdan at <editor@bsitrust.org>.
321. David B. Pearce ("The Khalifa at Khartoum") died on June 1. He practiced ophthalmology in New York for more than 40 years, and enjoyed the arts, music, literature, sailing, and lacrosse. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.
 322. Randall Stock has revised his "Best of Sherlock" web-site page for Sidney Paget <www.tinyurl.com/qg6pdv9>; he has added a few non-Sherlockian items, and (far more important) images of original artwork for some of the Sherlockian illustrations, so that one can see how wonderful his original artwork is. You can see much larger full-color images of artwork that was on view at the Museum of London in the spectacular "Catalogue of the Exhibition" that's available for purchase at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
 323. Congratulations to Scott Monty, who has reached the 1,000th entry on his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/peb2bv>. The web-site and its podcasts are entertaining, interesting, and informative.
 324. "Murder on the Bluebell Line" was a 35-minute program that was broadcast by BBC-1 in 1987; it was based on Charles Blinderman's book THE PILTDOWN INQUEST (1986), and starred Hugh Fraser as Holmes and Ronald Fraser as Watson (Hugh Fraser will be remembered as Hastings in the "Poirot" television series). You can watch the program now, thanks to Alexander Orlov, who has found the program at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/qy9bghe>.
 325. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will run through Sept. 7 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street are presenting a Mini-Symposium at the Discovery on July 18, featuring Leslie S. Klinger, Laurie R. King, Bonnie MacBird, and Mary Platt; details at <www.ccobs.org>.
 326. There has been progress on the television series "Houdini and Doyle" (Mar 15 #1). Stephen Mangan has been cast as Conan Doyle, and Michael Weston as Houdini; the executive producer is David Shore (creator of "House"). The ten-part mini-series is scheduled for broadcast next spring on Fox in the U.S., ITV Encore in the U.K., and Global in Canada. According to one report, Houdini and Conan Doyle "grudgingly join forces with New Scotland Yard to investigate inexplicable crimes with a supernatural slant."
 327. Bonnie MacBird's ART IN THE BLOOD (London: HarperCollins, 2015; 306 pp., \$25.99) takes Holmes and Watson to Paris and to bleak northern England in an attempt to rescue the illegitimate son of a French chanteuse, recover stolen art, and thwart a vicious criminal conspiracy. The author's web-site is at <www.macbird.com>, and she has helpfully supplied annotations for the book on-line at <www.aitbnotes.com>.
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328. Jun 15 #6: The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers Peter Calamai's report on "Conan Doyle's Journalist Circles", Doug Wrigglesworth's investigation of "Arthur Conan Doyle and the South African War", and other news from and about the collection; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
 329. The "tale in verse" has a long Sherlockian tradition, in the pages of The Baker Street Journal and other publications from the 1940s onward. Edgar W. Smith, Bliss Austin, and many others enjoyed presenting both the Canon and their own stories as poetry, and now Allan Mitchell has written SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MENACING MOORS (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 122 pp., \$8.95), bringing Holmes and Watson back to Dartmoor for another case, told almost entirely in poetic quatrains, and with a nice comment in the introduction: "Sherlock is as real as we want him to be." The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
 330. Also from MX: Wendy C. Fries' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND JOHN WATSON: THE DAY THEY MET (2015; 302 pp., \$18.95) is an entertaining collection of "50 new ways the world's most legendary partnership might have begun," short vignettes ranging from 1879 to 2015. Dick Gillman's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE JULIA MORIARTY TRILOGY (2015; 139 pp., \$8.95) collects three stories about Holmes and Watson's confrontation with the evil professor's sister, who is trying to avenge her brother's death. GC Rosenqist's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE PEARL OF DEATH AND OTHER EARLY STORIES (2015; 222 pp., \$14.95) offers ten short pastiches.
 331. And as usual, there are theatrics to report: Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be performed at the Charity Randall Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., July 9-26 <www.kinetictheatre.org>.
 332. The Namron Players are presenting "Plays Written by Kids (And Performed by Adults)" in the Andrews Park Amphitheater in Norman, Okla., on July 11-12. One of the plays is reported to feature "Sherlock Holmes rescuing all the penguins from an evil mastermind, even though Sherlock cannot pronounce the word 'penguin' himself." The web-site's at <www.namronplayers.com>.
 333. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is scheduled at the Hangar Theatre in Ithaca, N.Y., on July 16-25 <www.hangartheatre.org>. Also at Portland Stage in Portland, Maine, on Jan. 26-Feb. 21, 2016 <www.portlandstage.org>.
 334. The Filament Theatre Ensemble will present Jessica Wright Buha's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Portage Park" in Chicago on July 18-19 <www.filamenttheatre.org>; "Sherlock Holmes on bike or on foot, searching for clues in and around Portage Park."
 335. Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be performed at the Pioneer Playhouse in Danville, Ky., July 21-Aug. 1 <www.pioneerplayhouse.com>.
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- Jul 15 #1:**
336. There's a nice two-minute trailer for William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), due for release in a Blu-ray/DVD set by Flicker Alley on Oct. 20, and you can watch the trailer at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/odlmopw>. If you weren't able to see the film when it was screened in Paris in January and in San Francisco in May, the Red Circle of Washington has arranged for a theater screening on Sept. 26 in Bethesda, Md.; tickets still are available, and you'll find more information at <www.redcircledc.org>.
 337. On-line registration for GridLOCK DC in Washington on Aug. 8-9 has closed, but you can also register on-site <www.gridlockdc.org>. People coming from out of town may wish to arrive one day early to attend The Evil League of Ecdysiasts' presentation of "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Black Cat" <www.blackcatdc.com/shows/burlesque2.html> at 9:00 pm on Aug. 7 at the Black Cat. The promise of the League is "We do the weird stuff... And you can sing along."
 338. Sorry about that: William Gillette's last appearance on stage as Sherlock Holmes was not in 1930 (Jun 15 #1), but rather at The Playhouse in Wilmington, Del., on Mar. 19, 1932.
 339. It is nice to be able to report that Simpson's-in-the-Strand still is serving its traditional and properly British dinners (although meals cost more than they did when I first dined there some fifty years ago), and it likely will continue to do so. Rumors of possible changes to the restaurant (Feb 15 #3) caused some concern earlier this year, but it appears that management only is seeking to provide late-night and early-morning music in the restaurant's upstairs rooms.

340. Ben Gibson's *THE GHASTLY DANDIES DO THE CLASSICS* (New York: Penguin Young Readers, 2013; 64 pp., \$17.95); spotted by Evy Herzog in a bargain bin at Staples, the classics in the book include Sherlock Holmes (with six pages on "The Dancing Men"), and the artworks imaginative (and you should take a close look at the cover).
341. BBC Radio 4 Extra is broadcasting a "True Crime" series of repeats of older programs, one of which is "Conan Doyle's Strangest Case" (the story of the George Edalji case, first broadcast in 1995, starring Peter Jeffrey as Conan Doyle). You can listen to their programs for a month after they air at <www.tinyurl.com/p5sq7mg>.
342. Richard Johnson died on June 6. He had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, radio, and television, and played Dr. Watson in Charlton Heston's television version of "The Crucifer of Blood" (1991).
343. Willy Werby has created two versions of the sitting-room at 221B, one for display at the restaurant S. Holmes, Esq., in San Francisco, and the other at the Grosvenor Resort Hotel at Disney World in Orlando. Both rooms are now in storage, and she is offering the second room for sale; you can see some nice images of the room at <www.holmesroom.com> (move your cursor to the top of the screen to open captions).

344. Jul 15 #2 "Kevin Spacey Fowler: 5 Fun Facts about the Actor," India.com announced on May 10, and one of those fun facts was: "It is because of Sherlock Holmes that Kevin Spacey got into acting. During a trip to London when he was 10 years old and after seeing a production of Sherlock Holmes, the actor made his decision to be what he wanted to be." The actor turned ten years old on July 26, 1969, and of course one wonders what production that was.
345. Alexander Orlov has reported an interesting video at YouTube: 38 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage from the making of Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" at <www.tinyurl.com/pmjr6s>; it's a fine look at what's involved in creating a movie. And don't neglect the links to interviews and trailers.
346. "Sherlock Holmes' Fictional Baker Street Home in London Subject to Ownership Mystery" was the headline on a story in The Independent (July 22) on who owns the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary. A non-governmental organization called Global Witness has reported that the property is included in a portfolio of real estate in London worth £147 million that's owned by someone with ties to Rakhmat Aliyev, a former Kazakh secret police chief accused in the European Union of money laundering and murder. You can read the full report at <www.globalwitness.org>.
347. Laurie R. King reports that she has finished work on the next Mary Russell novel, *THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL*, due for publication in April. Laurie's excellent web-site's at <www.laurierking.com>; scroll down to Laurie's Muttering at lower right and read "This Is Mrs. Hudson?" to see what Mrs. Hudson was wearing in 1875.
348. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where; you can contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed. And Ron reports that the calendar is now on Twitter as @SianCalendar.
349. Phil Austin died on June 18. The official lead guitarist of the Firesign Theater, he was a co-author and performer on their album "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" (1974), which featured Hemlock Stones and Flotsam. You can listen to the album at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ob85wsz>.
350. Georges Treville directed and starred as Sherlock Holmes in a series of silent films made by Eclair in 1912, and it's nice indeed that two of these old films have survived: "The Copper Beeches" (24 minutes) has been available for some time, and "The Musgrave Ritual" (18 minutes) was discovered a few years ago. Search for [georges treville] at <www.youtube.com> to see both films.
351. Oscar Ross has spotted a mention of Sherlock Holmes in the lyrics of B. A. Robertson's song "Bang Bang" issued by Asylum Records as a single in 1979. There's a promotional video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/psetzwc>, and Sherlockian artwork on the sleeve (which you can see easily at eBay).

352. Jul 15 #3 Adam Frost and Jim Kynvin have created an artistic and interesting graphic analysis of the Canon ("Sherlock Holmes: Examining the Evidence--in Charts"), published in the Guardian on June 30, and well worth examining at the web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pcst3dg>. Don't neglect their presentation of "Other Cases Are Referenced--Which Sound Far More Exciting Than the One We're Reading".
353. Mel Ruiz ("Jack Douglas") died on Feb. 25, 2014. Proud to be a fourth-generation Californian, he had many enthusiasms, including tennis, old movies, nature, photography, and of course Sherlock Holmes. He was a member of the Sherlockian societies in San Francisco, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1988.
354. Anne Martinetti's *ALIMENTAIRE, MON CHER WATSON!* was published in France in 2010 and is now out of print, but a Google search will turn up copies offered for sale, and it's well worth searching for: it's a delightful French cookbook, with many full-page full-color illustrations, Sherlockian as well as alimentary. The author talks about her book in a three-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/qfh8ea4>.
355. Further to the report (Feb 14 #6) that CBS had syndicated the first season of "Elementary" about \$3 million per episode, WGN America will start airing the series this fall in the cable channel's "Prime Crime" weeknights lineup. There's a trailer for the line-up at <www.tinyurl.com/pcomzsx>.
356. Buckminster Fuller was a protege and good friend of Christopher Morley in the 1930s, and a member of the Three Hours for Lunch Club, the Grillparzer Sittenpolizeiverein, and The Baker Street Irregulars, and he installed one of his Dymaxion bathrooms in Morley's "Knothole" writing studio in Roslyn on Long Island. *THE SENSE OF SIGNIFICANCE: THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN CHRISTOPHER MORLEY AND BUCKMINSTER FULLER* is a splendid tribute to the two men, written by Chris' daughter Louise Morley Cochrane, based on the Morley and Fuller papers and on long taped interviews with Fuller.
357. The 158-page book offers a fascinating look at their relationship, and it has now been privately published by her children as part of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of Morley's birth. A few copies still are available, and are being used to help raise funds for the Knothole: \$25.00 for the book and \$5.00 for shipping; you can contact Terry and Linda Hunt (516-596-1590) <l8goldini95@gmail.com> to see if the book's available, and ask for payment details.
358. And with regard to the Three Hours for Lunch Club, Greg Ruby has posted at The Fourth Garrideb <www.fourthgarrideb.com> with new information about the Club's medal, together with commentary on the club by Christopher Morley.
359. Angela Misri's *THRICE BURNED* (Fierce Ink Press, 2015; 271 pp., CA\$16.99) is the second in her series about the adventures of Portia Adams, a sequel to her *JEWEL OF THE THAMES* (Apr 14 #3); Portia has discovered that she is the granddaughter of both Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes, and that her mysterious guardian is Irene Adler, and continues to develop her talents as a detective. The book can be ordered on-line at <www.amazon.ca> and from the publisher <www.fierceinkpress.storenvy.com>.

360. Jul 15 #4 The DFN Foundation's plans to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (Apr 15 #3) are continuing: the BBC reported (July 7) that a judge has ruled against an appeal by John Michael Gibson, from the Undershaw Preservation Trust, for a review of the Waverley Council's approval of the Foundation's plans. School project manager Norman Stromsoy welcomed the decision, and said that work on the site is

- "progressing very well," adding that the vast majority of the building has been maintained. Gibson said that he is taking legal advice on his next steps, and he has applied for an oral hearing in front of another judge.
361. The letter in which Agatha Christie wrote to Evelyn B. Byrne in 1966 that "All the Sherlock Holmes stories were enthusiasms of mine" (May 15 #2) sold for \$2,250 (including the buyer's premium).
 362. The series of thirty Conan Doyle letters pertaining to the Edalji Case that went to auction at Bonhams on Mar. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/m5y2h25> (Feb 15 #4) with an estimate of L20,000-L40,000 went unsold, but they were bought after the auction by the Portsmouth City Council (for L13,750), and have now been added to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. Michael Gunton, the Collection senior archivist, reports that a selection from the letters has been put on display at the Central Library <www.conandoylecollection.co.uk>.
 363. Omar Sharif died on July 10. He began his acting career in Egyptian films and went on to stardom in "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962) and "Doctor Zhivago" (1965). He also was a highly-ranked bridge player, and with Charles Goren and then Tannah Hirsch, wrote widely-syndicated bridge columns that occasionally involved Sherlock Holmes.
 364. Residents of Widecombe-in-the-Moor are campaigning to block installation of four towering mobile phone masts on Dartmoor, and Norman Cowling, chairman of the Dartmoor Preservation Association, has cited Dr. Watson, who wrote to Holmes that "when you are out upon its bosom, you have left all trace of modern England behind." Landscape enthusiasts point out that the L300,000 in public funding for each mast would give improved mobile coverage to just 47 residences, at a cost of L6,383 per property.
 365. MX Publishing has announced a Kickstarter campaign to help cover the cost of creating a three-volume THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES with 60 stories whose authors have pledged all their royalties to the renovation of Conan Doyle's home Undershaw by the Stepping Stones school. David Marcum is editing the anthology, and you can contribute to the campaign at the Kickstarter web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nfxkpn>.
 366. The Collector's Library <www.collectors-library.com> from CRW Publishing in London offers a lengthy list of titles in cloth-bound pocket-size editions, including the complete Canon in a boxed set of six volumes (L45.00) and as separate volumes: A STUDY IN SCARLET and THE SIGN OF THE FOUR (L7.99), THE ADVENTURES (L8.99), THE MEMOIRS (L7.99), THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES+THE VALLEY OF FEAR (L8.99), THE RETURN+HIS LAST BOW (L8.99), and THE CASEBOOK (L7.99), each volume with an interesting and instructive afterword by David Stuart Davies. THE BEST OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DARK MYSTERIES (L8.99 each) have introductions by Davies; he also has edited anthologies of crime, detective, and other stories for the Library.
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367. Jul 15 #5 It made headlines in Britain when the BBC realized that it had paid thousands of pounds in royalties to a man who had the same name as actor Neil Fitzpatrick, who played John Horner in Peter Cushing's "The Blue Carbuncle" (1968) and died in 2008; the man who received the royalties said he had never cashed the checks, and the BBC said it was trying to contact the dead actor's estate to make amends.
 368. Dean Clark recommends Nathan Gelgud's "An Illustrated History of Sherlock Holmes" (and so do I); it's an amusing tribute he posted (July 11) at Word & Film, a blog at the "intersection of books, movies, and television." You will find his post at <www.tinyurl.com/odcvq4j>.
 369. Roger Rees died on July 10. He started his acting career on stage with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and went on to win Olivier and Tony awards for his performance in the title role in "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby"; he had many other roles in film and television, and was Sherlock Holmes in the BBC's radio dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988). He also was seen as Sherlock Holmes' friend Alistair Moore in two episodes of the CBS-TV series "Elementary" in 2012 and 2014. You can listen to him in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at <www.tinyurl.com/ogsg78u> (the Crew of the Barque Lone Star offers a long list of Sherlockian radio).
 370. The BBC has launched its first trailer for the "Sherlock" Christmas special with some intriguing homages to Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series; you can watch the trailer, and read about the homages in Paul Jones' excellent article in Radio Times (July 10) <www.tinyurl.com/p5jasdt>. And there's some news from San Diego: Steven Moffat announced at Comic-Con that the Christmas special also will have a theatrical release.
 371. Further to the item (Oct 14 #2) about Gerard Marcel Beaudoin III, who used the alias Quentin G. Stanhope (who was a character in Carole Nelson Douglas' "Irene Adler" novels) while he committed theft, identity theft, forgery, and tampering with a witness in Lincoln City, Ore., was sentenced to eight years in prison on July 22 after pleading guilty to seven counts of aggravated theft and ID theft. The judge ordered Beaudoin to serve the sentence without the possibility of parole. Beaudoin said that he planned to pay back his victims after earning a theology Ph.D. while in prison and then working as a college professor, but the judge said that he thought "the likelihood of your paying restitution is very limited."
 372. Aubrey Morris died on July 15. He made his stage debut in 1944, performed in the West End and on Broadway, and went on to a long career as a supporting actor in film and on television; he played the Coach Driver in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
 373. Marvin Lachman's THE VILLAINOUS STAGE: CRIME PLAYS ON BROADWAY AND IN THE WEST END (Jefferson: McFarland, 2014; 254 pp., \$45.00) is a comprehensive survey, organized by subject matter, with an extensive chapter on "Sherlock Holmes: Baker Street on Stage"; the book discusses more than 900 plays that have been produced from the 18th century to the 2013-14 season, and offers a fascinating look at a wide variety of criminal theater. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mcfarlandpub.com> (800-253-2187).
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374. Jul 15 #6 Stephen Hunter is a journalist turned author (he won a Pulitzer Prize as a film critic for the Washington Post, and he has now written 18 novels), and his latest is a gripping and often-graphic account of Jack the Ripper's "autumn of terror," offering twists and turns aplenty and an imaginative solution to the mystery. I, RIPPER (New York: Simon & Schuster, 309 pp., \$27.99) offers a well-written story, with many appropriate mentions of both Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes by characters who have read the just-published A STUDY IN SCARLET.
 375. "We have not yet met our Waterloo, Watson," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Abbey Grange"), and Britain has issued an attractive set of stamps honoring the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo. Conan Doyle, it should be noted, was quite familiar with the battle: his story "A Straggler of '15" was published in 1891 and dramatized as "A Story of Waterloo" for Henry Irving, who first appeared in the play in 1894 as Corporal Gregory Brewster, hero of the defense of Hougoumont (which is shown in the first of the six stamps, at upper left).
 376. Greg Ruby has an interesting discussion of "2015 Coins and Medals Commemorating The Battle of Waterloo" at the web-site for The Fourth Garrideb; read all about them at <www.tinyurl.com/q6q5wp6>. The Brigadier Gerard also was at Waterloo, and earlier posts about that are at <www.tinyurl.com/ooa5ha4>.
 377. John E. Stephenson, who sold Sherlockiana at eBay (as "houndbook") for many year, has retired and moved to Florida, and his sister Peggy Steele now is selling his collection in a series of sales lists, which you welcome to request from her at <elizmoll@comcast.net>; there are lists available so far for lapel pins, tie tacks, cuff links, comics, and coffee mugs, and there are more to come.
 378. The Conan Doyle Estate lawsuit against Miramax and others charging that the new film "Mr. Holmes" infringes on the Estate's copyright (May 15 #5) has been settled out of court, according to a report in the Santa Fe New Mexican (July 16). Mitch Cullin, who wrote the book A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE

MIND (on which the film is based) and shares credit for writing the film script, said on his Facebook page when the lawsuit was filed that it was "an extortion attempt pure and simple, brought on by the desire to make money once the film version of the book came to their attention," and he posted again on July 18, noting that the lawsuit succeeded in holding up the U.S. film tie-in edition of the book, which will appear soon.

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379. Jul 15 #7 The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" runs through Sept. 7 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., and it's then scheduled at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., opening on Oct. 15; at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016; and then in Sydney, Australia. The web-site for Santa Ana is <www.discoverycube.org>, and the web-site for the exhibition is <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>.
380. MY PARTICULAR FRIEND: A CHARLOTTE HOUSE AFFAIR, by Jennifer Petkus (Denver: Mallard Press, 2012; 297 pp., \$14.00) offers six stories inspired by Jane Austen and set in Bath during war with Napoleon; Charlotte is a investigator whose deductive style echoes the Canon (and one of the stories has some amusing echoes of P. G. Wodehouse) <www.myparticularfriend.com>.
381. The Fourth Garrideb has scheduled its annual meeting in Chicago on Aug. 11, during the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money; details are available at <www.fourthgarrideb.com>.
382. Susan Rice has reported nice news for those planning to attend the birthday festivities in New York in January: Moran's Restaurant, where the William Gillette Luncheon has been held since 1994, did close, but it has been reborn as the Fillmore Room (named for the San Francisco music hall, rather than the president), and the luncheon will continue to be held there.
383. Further to the review of MYCROFT HOLMES, the pastiche written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (Jun 15 #2), Alexander Wolff's excellent article "Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as Comfortable as Ever as a Public Intellectual" appeared in Sports Illustrated on July 6 <www.tinyurl.com/ph3b234>.
384. Michael King died on May 27. In the 1970s he and his brother Roger transformed King World Productions into a syndicator of television megahits that they sold in 1999 to CBS for \$2.5 billion in CBS stock. Their most popular shows were "Wheel of Fortune", "Jeopardy!", and "The Oprah Winfrey Show", and at one time they owned the rights to the Rathbone/Bruce films; according to his obituary in the N.Y. Times, he once told an interviewer, "I love owning Sherlock Holmes. If anybody wants to run Sherlock Holmes, anywhere in the world, they have to call Roger and me. Isn't that wild?"
385. A page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" was offered at eBay this month for \$169,000 <www.tinyurl.com/o8s2moz>. It's the first page of Chapter XIII, and is listed as leaf H31 in Randall Stock's census <www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm>.
386. Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" received excellent reviews, with a score of 88% on the tomatometer at <www.rottentomatoes.com>, where you'll find links to 128 reviews by critics. The film also did well at the box office, according to another useful web-site <www.boxofficemojo.com>, with a first-weekend gross of \$2.43 million at 361 theaters, excellent for a film that did not "open wide"; Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes" did open wide, and had a first-weekend gross of \$62.3 million at 3,625 theaters. If you read (and remember) Mitch Cullin's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (Apr 05 #2), you know that the film-makers made some interesting changes; it's a fascinating book, and there are new tie-in editions with cover art that shows McKellen.
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387. Jul 15 #8 The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" runs through Sept. 7 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., and it's then scheduled at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., opening on Oct. 15; at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016; and then in Sydney, Australia. The web-site for Santa Ana is <www.discoverycube.org>.
388. And there's more theater coming up: Brian Clemens' "Sherlock Holmes & the Ripper Murders" opened at the Devonshire Park Theatre in Eastbourne on June 30, and is now touring in Britain <www.tinyurl.com/pyfzcg>.
389. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is scheduled at the Fortune Theatre in Dunedin from Aug. 8 to Sept. 5, and then will tour in New Zealand <www.fortunetheatre.co.nz>.
390. And at the Kamali Auditorium in Delhi, Aug. 22-23, and the Tata Theatre in Mumbai, Oct. 3-4 <www.in.bookmyshow.com>.
391. Raleigh Welch's new "Sherlock Holmes in the Raven's Court" will be read at the Paper Wing Theatre Fremont in Monterey, Calif., on Aug. 9, during the company's summer play reading series <www.paperwingtheatre.com>.
392. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be presented by the Woy Woy Little Theatre at the Peninsula Theatre in Woy Woy, NSW, Australia, Aug. 14-30 <www.woywoylt.com.au>. And at the Acadia Repertory Theatre in Mt. Desert, Maine, Aug. 18-Sep. 6; their web-site is at <www.acadiarep.org>.
393. Melbourne Steam Theatre has scheduled "Sherlock Holmes: Era's End" (a new play) at the Mooroolback Community Centre in Victoria on Sept. 4-5, and at the Mezzanine in Melbourne on Sept. 18-19 (both in Australia); you can go to <www.facebook.com> and search for [melbourne steam theatre].
394. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Sunset Playhouse in Elm Grove, Wis., Sept. 10-27; their web-site is at <www.sunsetplayhouse.com>.
395. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be performed at the Colonial Players in Annapolis, Md., Sept. 4-26 <www.thecolonialplayers.org>.
396. Terry McCabe's dramatization of Nicholas Meyer's "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" will be performed at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Oct. 12-Nov. 15 <www.citylit.org>.
397. I've long described this newsletter as six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean, and anyone who wants to do a word-search on a large (more than 13-MB) file of all of the text since March 1985 can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who compiled the file, and will update it, and has kindly made it available for download from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.dfw.sherlock.org/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermaceti-press>.
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398. Aug 15 #1 William Gillette's 1916 film "Sherlock Holmes" will be screened at the Arlington Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., on Sept. 13 (accompanied by Dennis James on the theater organ) <www.tinyurl.com/oosoe6p> and at the Chicago International Film Festival, Oct. 15-29 <www.chicagofilmfestival.com>.
399. If you can't get to Santa Barbara or Chicago, and want to see the film in a theater, the way your grandparents or great-grandparents did, there also is the screening in Bethesda, Md., on Sept. 26, conveniently the morning after the next dinner meeting of The Red Circle of Washington; for details (and a link to the box office), go to <www.redcircledc.org>.
400. The three-part mini-series "Arthur & George" aired on ITV in Great Britain in March, starring Martin Clunes as Conan Doyle, with a script by Ed Whitmore based on the book by Julian Barnes; the script is inventive, but less than faithful to the book as well as to the actual events in the George Edalji case. The mini-series is scheduled on "Masterpiece" on PBS-TV beginning on Sept. 6.

401. "I had all the WILLIAM books by Richmal Crompton," John Mortimer recalled, "their covers picturing the hero with his cap and tie askew and his socks like concertina around his ankles. But I didn't really want to read about schoolboys, I had quite enough of them in real life. I much preferred to become the sage of Baker Street, wearing a dressing gown, playing the violin, and shooting the pips out of playing cards stuck up above the mantelpiece. That's from his contribution to THE PLEASURE OF READING, edited by Antonia Fraser, published in 1992, and now in a second (expanded) edition (New York: Bloomsbury, 2015; 345 pp., \$18.00); it's an excellent book that allows you to read about how some fine writers discovered reading, and the books that inspired them.
 402. THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA COOKBOOK (Philadelphia: Quirk Books, 2015; 175 pp., \$24.95) is edited by Kate White, who has assembled an assortment of "wickedly good recipes" from MWA members including Laurie R. King ("Mrs. Hudson's Coffee Sheet Cookies"), Ken Ludwig ("Lenore Schneiderman's Gourmet Quiche") and Lyndsay Faye "Valentine Wilde's Chicken Fricassee"), there also is a sidebar from E.J. Wagner on "The Food Hound of Baker Street".
 403. James Carlopio's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE JULY CRISIS (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 148 pp., \$9.95) is a story created with an interesting approach: he has used words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs taken from the Canon to devise a new pastiche, resulting in a tale told very much in the style of Conan Doyle; some of the plot devices will be familiar, but Carlopio has succeeded in achieving what he calls "creative editing." The author has a web-site at <www.jamescarlopio.com>. And the publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
 404. Also from MX: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SWORD OF OSMAN, by Tim Symonds (2015; 229 pp., \$14.95) is set in 1906, with Holmes and Watson in Stamboul hoping to foil an attempt to topple the Ottoman Empire. Dean P. Turnbloom's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE RETURN OF THE WHITECHAPEL VAMPIRE (2015; 230 pp., \$16.95) is the final volume in his trilogy about Holmes and Watson and their pursuit of the undead Baron Antonio Barlucci.
 405. Aug 15 #2 Zach Dundas' THE GREAT DETECTIVE: THE AMAZING RISE AND IMMORTAL LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015; 320 pp., \$16.00) is a delightful exploration of the Sherlock Holmes stories and the world of Sherlockians; Dundas, at the age of 13, founded a correspondence society he called The Street Arabs and was published in The Baker Street Journal (Dec. 1988), and his book is entertaining and instructive: a well-written guide that will inform old hands as well as neophytes. Recommended.
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406. There's a new line of imaginative vinyl Pop! figurines due from Funko in October: Sherlock Holmes (two versions), Dr. John Watson, Irene Adler, Jim Moriarty, and Mycroft Holmes; from Entertainment Earth <www.tinyurl.com/p67vz73> and the BBC Shop <www.tinyurl.com/nddx5fs> \$9.99/L10.99 each.
 407. David McLaughlin spoke at the Transatlantic Dialogues conference in Liverpool in July on "Imagined Histories and Intangible Heritages: Walking the World of Sherlock Holmes"; it was a delightful tribute to the travel books written by David L. Hammer, and you can read the paper at his "Travelling Histories" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/pqtdcea>.
 408. Flicker Alley, the distributor of the Blu-ray/DVD set of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) reports that the set will be multi-region.
 409. W. E. Dudley ("The Papers of Ex-President Murillo") died on Nov. 14, 1995. Bill worked in industrial security and once wrote that "I am a retired investigator and am sure the Canon led me into that field." He contributed often to The Baker Street Journal, presided over The Travelers for Nevada, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1976.
 410. "Conan Doyle Sues Own Estate from Beyond the Grave" was the headline on the report from Tweenhauken, Pa., tweeted on June 11 by Burt Wolder; it was the first in a continuing weekly series, and you can read all of the reports at <www.burtwolder.wordpress.com>.
 411. "The legendary literary detective comes alive in the Sherlock Holmes Tarot" is the announcement from Aeclectic Tarot <www.tinyurl.com/nzswowe>, noted by Oscar Ross; the cards are colorful and artistic, and the web-site offers links to tarot card meanings and stories. The pack contains 79 Sherlockian cards and a 160-page illustrated guidebook.
 412. A major exhibition on "The Power of Poison" opened at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science on July 10 and runs through Jan. 10, 2016; it's reported to be informative and interesting, and of course poisons in the Canon are not neglected <www.dmns.org/the-power-of-poison>.
 413. Plan well ahead for "Michael Chabon and Sherlock Holmes" at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater at Symphony Space in New York on Dec. 9; it will be the live recording of "Selected Shorts" (a weekly radio series distributed by Public Radio International and available as a podcast). Chabon, author of THE FINAL SOLUTION: A NOVEL OF DETECTION (2004), "hosts and curates an evening of readings from some of the most sensational and confounding cases of Sherlock Holmes" <www.selectedshorts.org/onstage/detail/8854>.
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414. Aug 15 #3 "Call yourself a Cumberfan or a Cumberbitch?" BBC Radio 4 asks. "See how much you really know about bounteous Benedict with our Cumberquiz." It's a brief and amusing quiz, with a link to his performance as the young Rumpole in "Rumpole of the Bailey" <www.tinyurl.com/ouwgu4p>. You may find that the BBC wants you to be in the UK, in which case you can use handy little software such as Hola! <www.hola.org> to be anywhere you want to be.
 415. Cumberbatch's performance in the title role in the National Theatre's production of "Hamlet" is reported to be the hottest ticket in London, but you don't need to go to London to see the show: a recording will be screened in theaters in the U.K. and in other countries (including the U.S.) on Oct. 15 and later in the year; details at <www.tinyurl.com/pd2y3h4>.
 416. The Royal Mail is installing 50 plaques on postboxes around the United Kingdom, each featuring a popular stamp associated with the area, and one of the postboxes is the one closest to 221B, located at 210 Baker Street at the corner of Melcombe Street; the plaque shows one of the commemorative stamps that honored Sherlock Holmes in 1993.
 417. The Australian government is reported to have banned hundreds of mobile and web-based games that have "questionable content" (including "crude humor" and "scary elements"), and according to Ars Technica (June 30), one of the banned games is "Sherlock: Criminal Case" on Google Play. Titles that have been refused classification "cannot be sold, hired, advertised, or legally imported in Australia," but it's far from clear how the ban can be enforced in the modern era of digital distribution. Go to <www.play.google.com> to find the game; you can also search for [sherlock] to find many more games and apps (lots of them free).
 418. George Cole died on Aug. 5. He began his acting career on stage in 1939, and became best known for playing Alistair Sim's crooked accomplice Flash Harry in the "St. Trinian's" films in the 1950s and 1960s, and Arthur Daley in the television series "The Minder" (1979-1994). He also played Josiah Amberley in Clive Merrison's "The Retired Colourman" on BBC Radio 4 (1995).
 419. Greg Ruby reports that The Fourth Garrideb has issued a medal and a lapel pin, available at the society's web-site <www.fourthgarrideb.com>; if you order quickly you'll also receive one of the society's wooden nickels.

420. The Cresco Times ran a story on July 15 about Sherlock Shrimp: Elementary, My Dear <www.tinyurl.com/ovsagxk>; Sherill and Jeff Ryan own a shrimp farm in Ridgeway, Iowa, where they opened their business last year in a former elementary school. Their logo, which you can see at their Facebook page, also is nicely Sherlockian.
421. It's out of print, but worth looking for: MANAGING THE MYSTERY COLLECTION: FROM CREATION TO CONSUMPTION was edited by Judith Overmeier and Rhoda Harris Taylor for the Haworth Press in 2004, and it includes articles by Victoria Gill ("The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library") and Timothy J. Johnson ("The Adventure of the Unopened Box: Building the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota Libraries").

422. Aug 15 #4 THE FIFTH HEART, by Dan Simmons (New York: Little, Brown, 2015; 617 pp., \$28.00), is an unusual pastiche, set mostly in gildedage Washington and featuring Sherlock Holmes and Henry James. The mystery involves the death of Clover Adams; a cast of characters that includes Henry Adams, John Hay, Clarence King, Samuel Clemens; and the attempted assassination of Grover Cleveland. And the book is intriguing metafiction, with Sherlock Holmes occasional wondering whether he's really a fictional character in stories written by Watson (or perhaps Conan Doyle).
423. Dan Stashower discovered "Veglock" (British artist Red Scharlach's tribute to the BBC series); obviously she's a candidate for membership in The Pawky Humorists. You can see her artwork (and her puns) at <www.tinyurl.com/99c6n4m> much larger and in full color.
424. Les Klinger has reported J. Redding Ware's PASSING ENGLISH OF THE VICTORIAN ERA: A DICTIONARY OF HETERODOX ENGLISH, SLANG, AND PHRASE [1909]; the book offers 271 pages in which one can explore words and phrases that the author calls "fugitive language," and it's nice indeed that it's all digitized at <www.tinyurl.com/qxulaec>. Sherlockians may be interested to find that the Pink 'un had competitors that included the Brown 'un and the Blue 'un, and there likely will be other discoveries to be made.
425. GridLOCK DC in Bethesda on Aug. 8-9 was an interesting conference, and it's more than likely to repeat next year; about 200 people on hand, with a variety of panels and a fashion show/costume contest (the best of show award went to Basil of Baker Street). Go to <www.gridlockdc.com> to see details on the programming and the conference in general.
426. "It's my understanding that naked women generally don't carry knives" is a great opening sentence for a story. The best opening sentences are those that encourage the reader to continue reading ("To Sherlock Holmes she is always the woman" is a more familiar example), and you will find both the naked woman and the knife at the beginning and at the end of S. G. Browne's LUCKY BASTARD (New York: Gallery Books, 2012; 358 pp., \$15.00), reported by Samantha Wolov. The book features Nick Monday, a San Francisco private investigator who's also a luck poacher and has a sidekick who wants to be the Watson to Monday's Holmes. Browne, who also has written about zombie gigolos and alien sex toys, presides over an entertaining web-site and blog at <www.sgbrowne.com>.
427. Karen Murdock found the "221 Bakery Street" web-site ("a place for Sherlock inspired food, drinks, and recipes") <www.sherlockfood.tumblr.com>; scroll down to see Red Scharlach's amusing "Sherl-ices". Beth Gallego also noted an imaginative "221B Bakery Street" T-shirt designed by Themoreiarty at the Qwertee web-site <www.tinyurl.com/noz32bx>.
428. Ray and Joan Betzner visited New Jersey recently and discovered Spermaceti Cove, which turns out to be the only geographic feature with the name Spermaceti in the United States officially recognized by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names; it also was the site of the Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station, the first station in the country, erected in 1848. The proprietor of the Spermaceti Press is of course glad that it's so official and historic.

429. Aug 15 #5 Scott Palmer's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BASIL RATHBONE YEARS & OTHER FILMS (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2015; 242 pp., \$131.99 (hard-cover) \$121.99 (softcover) \$24.99 (e-book) is a well-illustrated filmography with detailed synopses, thumbnail portraits, and screenshots; there are samples at <www.tinyurl.com/ornb3j6> and <www.sherlockholmesonscreen.com>.
430. J. Devereaux deGozzaldi ("The Speckled Band") died on Aug. 18. Dev was an advertising sales manager for Newsweek, and after retirement he devoted his time to restoring antique cars, sailing, and serving as a part-time member of the board of directors of a bank. He joined The Speckled Band of Boston in 1958, and was for many years its devoted Poker (secretary); he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.
431. THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A COLLECTION OF VICTORIAN DETECTIVE TALES, edited by Stefan Dziemanowicz (New York: Fall River Press, 2015; 707 pp., \$7.98 at Barnes & Noble), offers an introduction by Leslie S. Klinger and 40 stories (including six Sherlockian satires and homages) published from 1845 to 1916.
432. Underground Toys has a new "Sherlock" articulated action figure, with his violin, skull, and mobile phone, 5 inches high (\$19.95 pre-order<www.bigbadtoystore.com>.
433. An "international celebration of Jeremy Brett's life, love, and laugh" is set for Sept. 12 (the 20th anniversary of his death) at Clapham Common (his last home was a penthouse flat with views of the Common), where a com-memorative bench will be dedicated, and tributes paid by his colleagues and friends. And Wyndham's Theatre has offered access that morning to the Royal Circle Bar that morning to view a commemorative plaque and a display of Keith Harding's photographs of Brett and Edward Hardwicke in "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes". Details at <www.tinyurl.com/nk5t4kc>.
434. It is always nice when a Sherlockian society can celebrate one of its founders: Freda Pearce helped mount the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition for the Festival of Britain in 1951 and then (with Jack Thorne, Anthony Howlett, and Colin Prestige) founded The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. She married Tony Howlett, served as president of the Society, and now, at the age of 97 Freda Howlett has written the preface for a book to be published next year in honor of the Society's 65th anniversary.
435. The argument over converting Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (Jul 15 #4) is not over: a High Court judge has granted John Gibson, director of the Undershaw Preservation Trust permission to mount a full judicial review challenging the Waverley Council's approval of the DFN Foundation's plans. Gibson's attorney said that the council had shown a "cavalier disregard" for Undershaw's "irreplaceable" status, and the judge ruled that the complaints were "at least arguable." A Council spokesman said "we are disappointed that the judge has determined that the case is to be heard and a full hearing is to take place, despite the fact that the High Court previously supported the council decision to grant planning permission." A statement from the DFN Foundation said that "we will continue to repair Undershaw and build our school," and that "we trust that the court will throw out this ridiculous case."

436. Aug 15 #6 Dorling Kindersley's Eyewitness Travel Guides have long been a standby for travelers to just about anywhere. Now part of Penguin Random House, DK also publishes a long list of Visual Guides on subjects such as Shakespeare, science, politics, religion, and (now) Sherlock Holmes. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK (2015; 352 pp., \$25.00) has David Stuart Davies and Barry Forshaw as consultant editors, and provides an enjoyable guide to the Canon and to the world of Sherlock Holmes.
437. September will be "Conan Doyle Month" at Groombridge Place, with "Sherlock Holmes and The Valley of Fear" guided tours, a Sherlock Holmes murder mystery and dinner, and "Remembering Conan Doyle" theater evenings; details at <www.groombridgeplace.com>.

438. The British (region 2) Blu-ray/DVD of Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" will be released on Oct. 26. No word yet on when the U.S. release will be.
439. The Second Street Irregulars, are a non-Sherlockian society that describes themselves at their web-site as "armchair sleuths dedicated to solving the Borden Case of 1892." They have annual awards, an official mutton-eaters song, and interesting web-site video <www.secondstreetirregulars.com>.
440. "Both were oddballs who took refuge in detective novels, and they quickly bonded over their mutual love of Sherlock Holmes and the Rover Boys," according to Alexandra Alter's story in the N.Y. Times (Aug. 9) about Harper Lee and Truman Capote, reporting on Greg Neri's novel "Tru and Nelle" due from HMH Books for Young Readers in March (spotted by Ray Betzner).
441. "A luxurious large-scale flock design of a dark-chocolate fleur-de-lys motif within a trellis pattern" is the manufacturer's description of the "Sherlock Wallpaper Ladies' Tank Top" spotted by Pam Weiner at Think Geek (\$24.99) <www.tinyurl.com/oyd758m>.
442. Peter L. Stern <www.sternrarebooks.com> is offering some interesting Sherlockiana and Doyleana: copyright editions (duplicates once held by the Library of Congress) of Conan Doyle's WESTERN WANDERINGS (1915), THE EVIDENCE FOR FAIRIES (1921), and THE MARACOT DEEP AND OTHER STORIES (1929); and two archives of correspondence, one of his letters to Major Pond (who managed Conan Doyle's lecture tour of the U.S. in 1894), and the other of letters to H. Greenhough Smith (his editor at The Strand Magazine) in which he praises P. G. Wodehouse's "Psmith" series and discusses THE LOST WORLD.
443. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Barnes & Noble, 2014; 416 pp., \$10.00) is the latest in the store's colorfully-bound gift editions, with six short stories, "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and 27 illustrations by Sidney Paget.
444. The Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium at the Newberry Library in Chicago on Oct. 24, starting at 9:00 am, is open to the public with no admission charge; the speakers will be Zach Dundas (author of THE GREAT DETECTIVE) on "Cracking the Casebook" and Tim Johnson (curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Univ. of Minnesota) on "Is It Always 1895?" There's more information at <www.newberry.org/programs-and-events>.

445. Aug 15 #7 More and more Sherlockian societies now have web-sites, and you will find a comprehensive set of links at Chris Redmond's "web portal about the Great Detective" at <www.sherlockian.net>; click on [fans, societies, events]. You might also click on [the original Sherlock Holmes stories] to see what people have had to say about the Canon (don't neglect "Redmond's Delicate Question" for each story); his links can be weird and wonderful: if you explore "The Hound of the Baskervilles" you will find a link to Laura Lyons as Playmate of the Month.
446. "Masterpiece" repeated the second season of "Sherlock" this month, and the on-line promotion <www.tinyurl.com/p9qeljv> included a selection of video features and an observation game, all possibly still available.
447. Ray Jessel died on July 17. Best known to Sherlockians as one of the authors of the musical "Baker Street" (1965), he had a long list of credits as writer and story editor for television series that included "The Love Boat" and "The Carol Burnett Shows". He attended (and performed at) the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars in 2010. You can hear him perform "A Married Man" at <www.tinyurl.com/qcxmbbv>.
448. The Sherlock Holmes Dragon, designed by Valerie Osment for the GoGo Dragons 2015 festival in Norwich (Apr 15 #8) will be displayed until Sept. 5 and will be auctioned for charity on Oct. 1. There's a larger image of Dragon Sherlock (#54) in a story in the Eastern Daily Press <www.tinyurl.com/qq4j7h>.
449. The Solitary Runners of Sherlock Holmes is a virtual race club focused on Sherlock Holmes, and its goals include promoting physical activity, giving fans the chance to earn exclusive limited-edition medals, and donating money to worthy charities. Their motto is "Run if convenient...if inconvenient, run anyway," and you can enroll on the society's mailing list with a request to Nea Dodson at <solitaryrunners@outlook.com>.
450. The Vista sports bar Wild Hare in Columbia, S.C., has closed, but it will reopen in the fall as the Irish pub Moriarty's, named after the evil professor, according to an article in the Columbia State (Aug. 15).
451. Adam Christopher's ELEMENTARY: THE GHOST LINE (London: Titan Books, 2015; 319 pp., \$7.99) is "based on the CBS television series," with a new story that captures the flavor and style of the series. BLOOD AND INK is due in Feb. 2016, and a third title is planned <www.adamchristopher.ac>.
452. "Sherlock Holmes & the Internet of Things" <www.sherlockholmes.io> is described as an attempt "to build a massive connected crime scene consisting of smart story-telling objects," sponsored by the Columbia University Digital Storytelling Lab for people who want to participate in a "massive connected crime scene, with a global challenge set for Oct. 24-25, according to a story in Variety (Aug. 18).
453. Registration for the 56th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze (the world's oldest and still-active annual Sherlockian horse race) at the Hawthorne Race Course on Oct. 17 is now open; details are available from Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net>.

454. Aug 15 #8 The "How I Got Started" department in the summer issue of Fine Books & Collections has a nice interview with Ray Betzner, who talked about Sherlock Holmes and Vincent Starrett, and the magazine has an excellent web-site at <www.finebooksmagazine.com> (although the interview isn't yet available on-line). Ray's own web-site "Studies in Starrett" also is well worth a visit <www.vincentstarrett.com>.
455. Dramatic news: John Chaffin's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem and The Empty House" is being performed at the Backstage at Chaffin's Barn Dinner Theatre in Nashville, Tenn., through Sept. 12 <www.dinnertheatre.com>.
456. "The Improvised Adventures of Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson" (a weekly series) began at the Under the Gun Theater in Chicago on July 9 and will continue through Oct. 29 <www.undertheguntheater.com>; their web-site includes a link to Watson's blog, which recaps previous performances.
457. The Raconteur Radio troupe will perform their radio play "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Kearny Public Library in Kearny, N.J., on Sept. 12 <www.kearnylibrary.org>.
458. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at the Mountain Playhouse in Jennerstown, Pa., Sept. 15-27 <www.mountainplayhouse.com>.
459. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Theater Wit in Chicago, Sept. 17-Nov. 14 <www.theaterwit.org>.
460. The American Lyric Theater has scheduled "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant" (a new opera by composer Evan Meier and librettist E. M. Lewis) at the Living Libretto workshop at the National Opera Center in New York on Sept. 28, and at an InsightALT concert reading at the Baruch Performing Arts Center in New York on May 26, 2016 <www.altnyc.org>.
461. Aquila Theatre's touring production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play written by Desiree Sanchez) opens at the Pollak Theatre in Monmouth, N.J., on Oct. 1 and continues on tour until Mar. 20, 2016; details can be found at <www.aquilatheatre.com/touring>, and it's well worth checking to see if it will be at a nearby venue.
462. Tal Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Red-Headed League" has been scheduled at the Cahill Theater at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y., Oct. 10-25 <www.redmonkeytheater.org>.

463. Greg Kramer's "Sherlock Holmes" (which had its world premiere in Montreal in May 2013) now has a touring Canadian production; the U.S. premiere will be at the Ricardo Montalban Theatre in Los Angeles, Oct. 15-18, followed by performances at Ed Mirvish Theatre in Toronto, Oct. 27-Nov. 8, at the Warner Theatre in Washington, Nov. 17-22, and the Oriental Theatre in Chicago, Nov. 24-29 <www.sherlockholmesonstage.com>; TV stars David Arquette and Michael Trevino play Holmes and Watson.
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464. Sep. 15 #1 Some Sherlockians have had a chance to attend theater and other screenings of William Gillette's restored silent film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), and it soon will be available on the small screen: it will be broadcast on Turner Classic Movies cable on Oct. 18 at 9:30 pm, and it will be issued by Flicker Alley as a Blu-ray/DVD set on Oct. 20; you can pre-order the set now at Amazon and Barnes & Noble and elsewhere on-line, but the best price is the discount offer at <www.flickeralley.com>.
465. Don't neglect a delightful accompaniment to the film: The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's LE GUIDE DU FILM SHERLOCK HOLMES (1916), a 64-page profusely-illustrated discussion of the film and its actors, with articles by Thierry Saint-Joanis and Bernard Oudin, with press reviews from the original release; it's almost all in English and costs €20.00 at the society's web-site <www.sshf.com/boutique.php>, where you can see thumb-nail images showing the results of their splendid research.
466. The script for Simon Stephens' dramatization of Mark Haddon's best-selling novel THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME (2003), which was commissioned for and performed by the National Theatre in London in 2012, has now been published by the Dramatists Play Service <www.dramatists.com>. In the book Christopher Boone is an autistic teen-ager who enjoys the Sherlock Holmes stories and turns detective himself, but there's no mention of Sherlock Holmes in the play.
467. The New York Comic Con on Oct. 8-11 <www.newyorkcomiccon.com> will include a CBS TV Studios session on Oct. 9 devoted to the "Elementary" series, with Jonny Lee Miller, Lucy Liu, John Noble (Sherlock's father Morland Holmes) and executive producer Rob Doherty on hand for a panel and a sneak peek at the new season.
468. Dynamite Entertainment has completed its five-issue comic-book mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. HARRY HOUDINI (Sep 14 #2); the writers are Anthony Del Col and Conor McCreery, and the artists is Carlos Furuzono the artist, and a trade paperback is now available (\$15.29).
469. And IDW has launched its mini-series of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (\$3.99 each), written by David and Scott Tipton, based the book by Nicholas Meyer, and the artist is Ron Joseph www.idwpublishing.com
470. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of mathematician George Boole; his great idea was Boolean logic, the basis for the Boolean search, been used by everyone who has run a keyword search such as "sherlock" AND "holmes" (you can also use NOT and OR). Boole spent much of his career in Ireland, and at the George Boole Mathematical Science Conferences held at University College Cork last month, professor Des MacHale presented what he believes is "compelling evidence" that Boole was the inspiration for another Irish mathematician made famous by Arthur Conan Doyle. MacHale suggests that "Every computer scientist, mathematician, electrical engineer, and logician on the planet already knows about George Boole," adding that "If the Boole-Moriarty link can be established, then every literate person on the planet will know about George Boole too."
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471. Sep 15 #2 Jack Carter died on June 28. He was a fearless comedian, with rapid-fire delivery, and an excellent mimic who began his acting career in high school and had a long career on stage, screen. According to his N.Y. Times obituary, his first paid role was in summer stock in Christopher Morley's "The Trojan Horse" (1940), and Carter horsed around so much during rehearsals that Morley suggested that Carter turn to comedy.
472. Susanna Lazarus had an interesting article in Radio Times (Aug. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/ph6mjqu> with the headline asking "Did you notice these film and TV costumes have been recycled?" One of the costumes was an elegant Victorian dress worn by Janet Fielding as the fifth Doctor's companion Tegan in "Doctor Who: Enlightenment" (1983) and by Gayle Hunnicutt as Irene Adler in Granada's "A Scandal in Bohemia" (1984). There are more repeats (non-Sherlockian, alas) shown in the story and even more to be found at the web-site "Recycled Movie Costumes" <www.recycledmoviecostumes.tumblr.com>.
473. Benjamin Allison, attorney for the Conan Doyle Estate, has said that the company is "very pleased" that its lawsuit against Miramax and others about the Ian McKellen film "Mr. Holmes" has been settled (Jul 15 #6), according to a report in Entertainment Weekly (Sept. 3). Allison also announced that an "agreement in principle" had been reached with the filmmakers, and that a second agreement finalized with author Mitch Cullen and with the publisher of A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND will add an acknowledgement to the e-book version of use of material from the copyrighted Sherlock Holmes stories.
474. "Danger Mouse" was a British 10-minute animated series first broadcast in the U.K. in 1981, it starred "the world's greatest detective and his faithful assistant Penfold, the world's most obvious coward," who operated from a letterbox on Baker Street," and it was nice to learn that a new series of 52 11-minute episodes was launched on CBBC on Sept. 28 (the original series aired in the U.S. on Nickelodeon, and the new series will be available here on Netflix.
475. A Japanese real estate agent called Home's has some imaginative Sherlockian television commercials <www.box.homes.co.jp/cm/mirai>; Mitch Higurashi has reported that the young man who plays Holmes is a member of a vocal group Arashi [Storm], which is highly popular with young women; the group's English-language web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/qjapy9f>.
476. Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Press will publish a limited edition of Bonnie MacBird's ART IN THE BLOOD (Jun 15 #5): sixty copies only, in marbled boards with a leather spine, numbered and signed, and containing (only in this edition) annotations by the author, a forward by Leslie Klinger, and illustrations in black and white (\$150.00); details (and one of the illustrations) at <www.tinyurl.com/p8y637v>.
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477. Sep 15 #3 "The Empire of Corpses" is a new Japanese animation, scheduled for release in Japan on Oct. 2, and in North America next year. According to The News Hub (Aug. 22), "John Watson, a medical student at the University of London, is recruited by the British government for a covert mission in Afghanistan. His cover job is a newly recruited medic for the British army, where he learns that humans are being brought back from the dead in the form of Frankenstein's monster."
478. Further to the report (Jul 15 #3) that CBS had syndicated the first season of "Elementary" for about \$3 million per episode, WGN America began airing the series on Aug. 31 in the cable channel's "Prime Crime" weeknights lineup. There's a trailer for "Prime Crime" at <www.tinyurl.com/pcomzxx>.
479. Greg Ruby seeks information about a hitherto-unknown Sherlock Holmes medal cast in aluminum, and has posted an image of the medal at The Fourth Garrideb's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/poma4qt>.
480. Joseph A. Kestner died on Aug. 24. He was the McFarlin Professor of English and the founded the Department of Film Studies at the University of Tulsa; he specialized in Victorian literature, and he explored the Canon is SHERLOCK'S MEN: MASCULINITY, CONAN DOYLE, AND CULTURAL HISTORY (1998), SHERLOCK'S SISTERS: THE BRITISH FEMALE DETECTIVE, 1864-1913 (2003), and THE EDWARDIAN DETECTIVE, 1901-1915 (2004).

481. The "international celebration of Jeremy Brett's life, love, and laugh" on Sept. 12 (Aug 15 #5) was well attended, and there's a Facebook event page at <www.tinyurl.com/nk5t4kc>.
 482. Long runs of The Strand Magazine are few and far between, but a recent auction at PBA Galleries included the first 74 volumes in publisher's cloth and a nearly-complete run of the remaining 44 volumes in cloth and as single issues; the lot sold for \$6,000 <www.tinyurl.com/q7j9nsy>.
 483. SARATOGA: AT THE RAIL: FROM "SILVER BLAZE" TO "SHOSCOMBE OLD PLACE" is the book published to accompany this year's running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Racetrack, with essays that focus on the Canon's two racing stories (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2015; 79 pp., \$18.95); it's available from the BSI <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
 484. Gautier Cazenave's fund-raising campaign for his film "Sherlock Holmes vs. Frankenstein" continues at Indiegogo <www.tinyurl.com/fxbx7s>; he hopes to film the first scenes in December, and complete the film next spring.
 485. Jack W. Schmidt died on July 25. He served in the Air Force in World War Two, worked as a financial analyst in the aerospace industry, raised a family, and then became an actor, performing as Count von Stalburg in John Michael's tour of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1976-1977), and then both on- and off- Broadway.
 486. Michael Dirda spent a year writing weekly personal essays for The American Scholar's web-site, and they've now been collected as BROWSINGS (New York: Pegasus Books, 2015; 246 pp., \$24.95); the essays are interesting and literary, and occasionally deal with matters Sherlockian.
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487. Sep 15 #4 The National Coalition Against Censorship has reported that the principal of Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, Fla., canceled the summer reading assignment of Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME because a few parents had complained about "profanity and religious references" in the book <www.tinyurl.com/op4oz3f>. The story includes op-ed comments by Lincoln High School senior Jaclyn Weinell published in the Tallahassee Democrat opposing the decision, and she notes that required reading in past years has included FAHRENHEIT 451, CATCHER IN THE RYE, and THE GREAT GATSBY.
 488. This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will show Sidney Paget's portrait of Arthur Conan Doyle, exhibited this year in Britain for the first time during the exhibition at the Museum of London, in full color and in packs of ten; there's an order form (and much more of interest) at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
 489. Sherlockians visiting or living in Columbia, S.C., may wish to stop by at the new Starbucks in the basement of the Sheraton on Main Street: according to an item in the Columbia Free Times (Sept. 7), the new Starbucks occupies the space that used to be the Sherlock Holmes pub.
 490. The Anime News Network reported (Sept. 12) on plans by the Japanese on-line clothing store Sukiyaki to release a new fashion collection that is based on the Japanese animated series "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" (1983) <www.tinyurl.com/qhqsqz4>. You can read all about the new line (in Japanese) and place your orders at <www.tinyurl.com/p5ycnvg>.
 491. Charles Veley's THE LAST MORIARTY (Seattle: Thomas & Mercer, 2015; 287 pp., \$15.95) is set in London in November 1895, with Holmes back from the Great Hiatus (although the public's not yet aware of his return) and on behalf of John D. Rockefeller, J. P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, and Her Majesty's government solving a crime that involves some twists and turns with regard to people from Holmes' past.
 492. The Unemployed Philosophers Guild continues to add new items to their Sherlockian offerings: the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Bar (\$4.95) is a "delicious fruit and nut bar" that comes in a box "full of clever diversions" that include a Sherlock Holmes Rogues Gallery <www.tinyurl.com/nkkjjeu>.
 493. The Stillwater Public Library (in Oklahoma) has arranged a month-long series of imaginative events publicizing Sherlock Holmes (and of course reading) <www.library.stillwater.org/sherlock.php>, tied to the performance in Stillwater on Oct. 29 of Aquila Theatre's touring production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" <www.aquilatheatre.com/touring>.
 494. The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" is on its way to the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Denver, Colo., where it will open on Oct. 15 and close on Feb. 15, 2016 <www.dmns.org>. Then it will open at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 13, 2016, and close on Jan. 8, 2017. Other dates are available, in case your local science museum is interested; contact <info@exhibitsdevelopmentgroup.com>. The Exhibits Development Group has seven other interesting exhibitions now on tour, and two more in development; details at <www.exhibitsdevelopment.com>.
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495. Sep 15 #5 Some of the better pastiches are being written for younger readers, and the SHERLOCK, LUPIN & ME series is a excellent example: written by Irene Adler [Alessandro Gatti] and launched in Italy beginning in 2011 (11 titles so far), the series is now appearing in English translations. The first book is THE DARK LADY (North Mankato: Stone Arch Books, 2014; 239 pp., \$12.95), presenting 12-year-old Irene Adler in Saint-Malo, where she encounters slightly-older Sherlock Holmes and Arsène Lupin, and joins them in investigating (and solving) a case that involves robbery and murder. In the second, THE SOPRANO'S LAST SONG (2015) the third, THE MYSTERY OF THE SCARLET ROSE (2015), the three children are London and solving more mysteries; there's also attractive art by Jacopo Bruno.
 496. "The Art of Music" is Christie's title for its private exhibition and sale of a collection of Stradivari and other violins and cellos, and the auction house's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oso6xeh> is well worth a visit; click on "View the Interactive" to see the instruments and hear them played, and of course learn what made Sherlock Holmes' violin so special.
 497. Arthur L. Levine (The Cutter Alicia) died on Sept. 16. He worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics in Cleveland, where he was one of the founders of The Creeping Men, and when NACA became NASA Art's first job was recruiting astronauts (including Neil Armstrong and John Glenn); he became the first administrator of NASA's Goddard Institute, and went on to be a professor of public administration at the City University of New York. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1955, and was a long-time member of The Three Garridebs, and was interviewed in an "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/pyxl5ab>.
 498. Laurie R. King reports that she has handed the manuscript of THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL over to her editor, and has posted a teaser for the novel (and an account of her research) at Between the Lines: Buzz from Laurie R. King <www.tinyurl.com/npkhsae>; the new book will be published in April 2016.
 499. A SHERLOCK HOLMES DEVOTIONAL, by Trisha White Priebe (Uhrichsville: Shiloh Run, 2015; 320 pp., \$12.99), uses the Canon as an inspiration for a series of short lessons aimed at "uncovering the mysteries of God."
 500. Mandarin Companion's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE CURLY HAired COMPANY (Shanghai: Mind Spark Press, 2014; 78 pp., \$12.95 at Amazon and Barnes & Noble) is a simplified translation for people who have been studying Chinese for about a year (there are no red-heads in China, but curly hair's as rare there as red hair is in the west); the story's set in Shanghai in the 1930s, and it's an imaginative approach to learning a language.
 501. "Holmes and the Stolen Stones" is a new on-line slot machine from Yggdrasil Gaming; you can read all about it, see the Sherlockian graphics, and play for free at <www.tinyurl.com/qehjuhe>.

502. Malware: somehow I wound up with a malware program that created pop-up ads whenever I opened Mozilla Firefox. And thanks to a recommendation in Consumer Reports I found that downloading and running the free Malware Anti-Malware scanner identified and removed the offensive program. You can do the same, if you have problems, from <www.malwarebytes.org>.
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503. Sep 15 #6 Randall Stock continues to expand his "Best of Sherlock" web-site page for Sidney Paget, and has added memorabilia associated with his Sherlockian illustrations <www.tinyurl.com/q555rzt> as well as treasures such as the silver cigarette case Paget received as a wedding present from Sherlock Holmes (who had it inscribed for the occasion).
504. Greg Ruby reports at The Fourth Garrideb web-site www.tinyurl.com/ps4v6hq on a new Kingdom of Great Britain £10 banknote featuring Sherlock Holmes; it's a "fantasy banknote" that's quite artistic, and it's available at eBay for \$9.99 <www.tinyurl.com/opz2n49>.
505. Books Space <www.books-space.com> is offering subscribers THE COMPLETE CONAN DOYLE COLLECTION, with a hardback book and a magazine delivered by mail every two weeks for £7.99 an issue; there will be 50 volumes, with THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES as the first two volumes.
506. "The Celebrity Voicemail Show" is a British 15-minute series, starring Kayvan Novak and broadcast by BBC Radio 4; on Sept. 23 Novak imagined what it would be like to hear Benedict Cumberbatch's voicemail message, and you can listen to the program at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06bp5tt>.
507. The 2015 edition of the Green Bag Almanac & Reader (May 15 #4) presented an interesting variety of articles devoted to "The Norwood Builder" written by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians, and much of the issue's contents are now available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nl4nxhh>. There also was a detailed map, available as two (extremely large) files at www.tinyurl.com/nbp4x9y and <www.tinyurl.com/ohykkcb>.
508. "Big Nate" is a comic strip written and drawn by Lincoln Peirce, and there was a Sherlockian story arc from July 22 through July 25; you can see the comic strip at <www.comics.com/big_nate>.
509. Tom Dunn, who presided over The Universal Coterie of Pipe Smokers and edited and published The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris until he died in 2005 (Apr 06 #6), also was a collector, and material from his collection (including a copy of my long-out-of-print seasonal souvenir for 1970 advertised at the flattering price of \$25.00) are now being sold by the Good Times Bookshop <www.goodtimesbookshop.com>.
510. BBC One has released a new trailer that promotes its upcoming season, with brief bits from the "Sherlock" special that's due (in the U.K. at least) at Christmas <www.youtube.com/olsbl4s>. The folks responsible for "Sherlock" are experts at generating rumors and of course publicity; the best web-site for the latest (accurate) news is <www.sherlockology.com>.
511. Despite Sherlock Holmes' derogatory comment about Edgar Allan Poe's Dupin (in "A Study in Scarlet"), Conan Doyle acknowledged the great debt that he and other mystery writers owed to Poe. Jeff Jerome, who presided over the Edgar Allan Poe House in Baltimore until 2012 (when the city withdrew its funding), still arranges annual celebrations of Poe's birth and death, and has a fund-raising campaign in support of this year's event at the Westminster Hall and Graveyard; you can contribute at <www.gofundme.com/s543f947>.
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512. Sep 15 #7 Marcia Wilson's YOU BUY BONES: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND HIS LONDON THROUGH THE EYES OF SCOTLAND YARD (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 269 pp., \$14.95) is a police procedural and thriller from the early 1880s; the policemen are Lestrade, Hopkins, Bradstreet, and Murcher, encountering Holmes after his arrival in London and again after Watson joins Holmes, and the book offers both an interesting picture of London and a perilous mystery that involves Watson rather than Holmes. The publisher has web-sites at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <mxpublishing.co.uk>.
513. MX has also published Petr Kopl's THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (2014; 164 pp., \$16.95) and THE FINAL PROBLEM (2015; 208 pp., \$16.95) are the latest in his imaginative and attractive graphic-novel adaptations of the Canon; the second book has more than one case, and both have amusing echoes from other parts of his "Victoria Regina" series; his interesting web-site is at <www.petrkopl.cz>.
514. And there's more from MX: Hamish Crawford's THE BEST AND WISEST MAN (2015; 238 pp., \$16.95) is subtitled "being a reprint of the reminiscences of Mrs. Mary Watson, née Morstan," and presents Mary Morstan's own comments on her husband's relationship with Holmes, followed by extracts from the memoirs of the Watsons' daughter. Mark Mower's A FAREWELL TO BAKER STREET (2015; 169 pp., \$9.95) offers five stories, ranging from the beginning to the end of Watson's partnership with Holmes.
515. Also from MX: John A. Little's THE CASE OF THE HAMPSTEAD PONIES (2015; 186 pp., \$11.95) offers five stories, set in 1925, with Holmes and Watson back at 221B (where the landlady now is Mrs. Hudson's Cockney niece Lily), solving cases that involve cannibalism and other dire perils. Petr Macek's GOLEM'S SHADOW: THE FALL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2015; 175 pp., \$16.95) presents Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a missing husband, which leads to a series of brutal murders and takes them to Paris and Prague. And Thomas Gwinner's SHERLOCK HOLMES AS A PIPE SMOKER (2015; 100 pp., \$14.95) surveys and analyzes all of the mentions of Sherlock Holmes' pipes and pipe-smoking in the 60 stories and in the illustrations in the first appearances of the stories in British and American periodicals.
516. Alexander Orlov has made an interesting discovery at the Find My Past blog: Sherlock Holmes and his brother Mycroft Holmes, recorded as living in Yorkshire, in the 1911 census of England and Wales <www.tinyurl.com/pqjo9q8>; the blog includes an image of the census page, and you can click on the im- age to enlarge it and read it easily.
517. David Grann, author of THE LOST CITY OF Z, was at a Smithsonian event this month for a book signing, and was asked about the film (Feb 15 #4), which is now in production; the British scenes have been done (in Northern Ireland), and they're now on their way to Colombia to work there.
518. Dennis Drabelle, in his Washington Post review of three (non-Sherlockian) books by Malcolm Mackay, gives a wonderful description of a writer's three great strengths: he knows (or, what is equally good, persuades us that he knows); he is a natural storyteller, able to jump from one hurtling train of action to another without making the reader feel manipulated; and he's got a voice to which we're happy to surrender. A nice compliment indeed.
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519. Sep 15 #8 Paula Berinstein's AMANDA LESTER AND THE PINK SUGAR CONSPIRACY, (Aguoura Hills: The Writing Show, 2015; 357 pp., \$9.99), features a 12-year-old descendant of Inspector Lestrade who's expected to continue in the family's tradition; despite her not wanting to be an investigator she nevertheless is sent to a mysterious British school for descendants of famous detectives, where she encounters a real mystery and a villainous conspiracy. It's the first of an interesting series, and the author has a web-site (with sample chapters) at <www.amandalester.net>.
520. New theater: Tony Macaulay's new musical "Sherlock in Love" (with Sherlock Holmes pursuing Jack the Ripper) is running at the Cocoa Village Playhouse in Cocoa, Fla., through Oct. 11 <www.cocoavillageplayhouse.com>.
521. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (his first version of "The Game's Afoot") is on at the Newport Theatre Arts Center in Newport Beach, Calif., through Oct. 11 <www.ntaonline.com>. It will also be performed at the Rivoli Theatre in South Fallburg, N.Y., Oct. 9-18 <www.scdw.net>.
522. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is running at the Lost Nation Theater in Montpelier, Vt., through Oct. 25 <www.lostnationtheater.org>.

523. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" has been scheduled at the Malcolm Field Theatre in University Center, Mich., Oct. 7-11 <www.svsu.edu/theatre/showschedule>. And at the Hickory Community Theatre in Hickory, N.C., Oct. 16-Nov. 1 <www.hickorytheatre.org>.
 524. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed by the Actors Co-op at the Crossley Theatre in Hollywood, Oct. 14-Nov. 22 <www.actorsco-op.org>.
 525. The CAB Theatre Halloween show "MaCABre III, Hex and the City" at the University of Wisconsin/Barraboo/Sauk County on Oct. 16-17 will include "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Misplaced Dipstick"; details at their Facebook page <www.facebook.com/cabtheatre>.
 526. C. P. Stanchich's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Maple Leaf Murder" will be performed at the Camino Real Playhouse in Capistrano, Calif., Oct. 16-Nov. 1 <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>.
 527. The Phoenix Repertory Players will perform a new dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" at Theatre Rocks! in Ennis, Tex., Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 <www.phoenixrepertoryplayers.com>.
 528. Bill Daniel's new play "Holmes vs. Holmes" will debut at the Heartland Studio Theatre in Chicago, Nov. 5-29 <www.edgeoforion.com>.
 529. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Bard's Town Theatre in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 5-15; web-site at <www.thebardstown.com>.
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530. Oct 15 #1 The National Theatre's production of "Hamlet" is spectacular, and not just because it stars Benedict Cumberbatch in the title role; the performance on Oct. 15 was broadcast live to theaters in the U.K. and other countries, and there will be encore (recorded) theater screening coming up. To find out when and where near you, go to <www.ntlive.com> and click on "Hamlet" (or use the "what's on near you" button to check on all their productions. You can see a brief trailer for the show at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ptc7g2e>.
 531. Readers of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES will be familiar with the forensic work of Alphonse Bertillon, but he did much more than merely measure criminals, as explained by Kate Summerscale in an article in The Telegraph (Oct. 2) headlined "How to Frame a Murder: The Suspicions of Monsieur Bertillon" <www.tinyurl.com/oqm93c9>.
 532. Chilean art director Javier Jensen has use GIF technology to animate iconic book covers, including THE ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; The Guardian has kindly put them on-line (Sept. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/nqjw3ph>.
 533. William S. Kirby's VIENNA (New York: Forge, 2015; 318 pp., \$26.99) features Vienna (a mysterious autistic savant) and Justine (a glamorous high-fashion model) in a modern-day thriller that echoes "The Six Napoleons" in a story that involves a series of murders as well as interesting twists and turns in the plot.
 534. Samuel French <www.samuelyfrench.com> has published the script for Madeleine George's imaginative play "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" (88 pp., \$9.95); this Watson is the "trusty side-kick to Sherlock Holmes, loyal engineer who built Bell's first telephone, unstoppable super-computer that became reigning "Jeopardy!" champ, and amiable techno-deweeb who, in the present day is looking for love." You can watch her five-minute video about the play's background at <www.tinyurl.com/phd7ahv>.
 535. "The Abominable Bride" (that's the title of the upcoming special episode of "Sherlock") will be screened in theaters and broadcast by BBC-1 in the U.K. and by PBS-TV in the U.S. on Jan. 1, offering Holmesians and Sherlockians a nice way to start the New Year. Theater screenings (on Jan. 5 and 6 in the U.S.) will have extra material, including Stephen Moffat's guided tour of 221B Baker Street and behind-the-scenes footage from the making of the episode. Locations in the U.K. are available at <www.tinyurl.com/pdrbavk> and in the U.S. they'll be available at <www.fathomevents.com> on Nov. 6. The program has been scheduled for release on DVD and Blu-ray on Jan. 12, and is available for pre-order on-line at Amazon and elsewhere.
 536. The headline in the Daily Mail (Oct. 13) pretty much says it all: "A Case for Sherlock Holmes Himself: Founder of Baker Street Museum Is Accused of 'Embezzling' His Mother's Money in Bitter Court Battle with His Half-Sisters and Brother Over the Lucrative Tourist Trap"; the judge said that "a survey of this lamentable litigation history shows that whenever one side enjoys any success, the other immediately takes steps to blunt the advantage." You can read much more about John Aidinantz and his litigious family at <www.tinyurl.com/qhyy5od>.
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537. Oct 15 #2 Further to the report (Jun 15 #3) on the Criterion Restaurant, which after 140 years in business encountered difficulties when the landlord increased the rent), a representative of the property managers said on Aug. 20 that "due to the downturn in trade and no interested party being found to acquire the restaurant despite all avenues being exhausted the restaurant was closed yesterday evening." The Criterion's Long Bar was where Watson and Stamford had their historic meeting (as noted in A STUDY IN SCARLET).
 538. "Elementary" starts season 4 on Nov. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/q2x4u29>, and the series has a web-site "The Deductionist" www.thedeductionist.net
 539. Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., has announced a "Sherlock Holmes in London" spring break program, Mar. 4-11, 2016. The program will be led by English Department instructor Alicia DeFonzo; more information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/onsz13k>.
 540. C. Frederick Kittle ("Jack Stapleton") died on Oct. 18. He was an oncologist and a cardiologist, a dedicated student of medical history, and an ardent Sherlockian and Doylean; as a collector he specialized in Doyles (all of them), and donated his manuscripts, books, letters, and original artwork to the Newberry Library in Chicago. Fred received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2000.
 541. Eduardo Zinna (editor of Ripperologist) reports that Clam Radio (hosted by John Tabacco on WUSB-FM) has a 19-minute audio interview with Daniel Friedman, who with his father wrote THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. DOYLE (Apr 15 #2), in which they suggest that Conan Doyle was Jack the Ripper. You can listen to the interview at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/p4jb3pz>.
 542. The DVD of Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" will be released on Nov. 10, and is available for pre-order now on-line.
 543. Baker Street, now a southbound one-way street, would be converted to two-way traffic under a proposal to "return Marylebone to how it was originally intended: a place for people" <www.bakerstreettwo-way.co.uk>; there has been considerable opposition to the plan, and no final decision has been made.
 544. Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes is one of three candidates who are campaigning against incumbent Rick Murphrey to serve as mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. According to the Kings Mountain Herald, Holmes is a convicted felon who in 1985 was sentenced to 10 years in prison for larceny of more than \$200 (he was released in 1990); last year he was arrested on disorderly conduct and trespassing charges while protesting at a local church, and this year was arrested on the same charges at a local flea market for spouting vulgarities and harrassing vendors. Holmes, a 78-year-old Korean War veteran, has said he is a member of the Church of God, and that if elected he "would get the D.A. to swear out a warrant on any man who says he's gay." He also admitted that he doesn't actually want the job, saying, "I don't want to be mayor no more than I want to fly. I don't know about my chances in this. I'm a newcomer--and I don't give one hoot about politicians." You can see his picture (and his mug shot) in a story published in the Advocate (Sept. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/nz2knwj>.

545. Oct 15 #3 "According to Pingk's biography, the debut author-illustrator ran away from the circus to join a normal family," according to a Publisher's Weekly interview with Rubin Pingk (Sept. 17). Simon & Schuster has just published his (non-Sherlockian) SAMURAI SANTA: A VERY NINJA CHRISTMAS, and he is hoping that they will publish his middle-grade graphic novel about Sherlock Holmes' granddaughter Padlock Holmes.
546. "Whosolvedit? Take Our Famous Literary Detectives Quiz!" was the challenge from the Christian Science Monitor <www.tinyurl.com/mytqjgg>; the question about the Canon won't be difficult, but getting all thirty correct answers presents more of a problem.
547. "Worn with pain, and weak from the prolonged hardships which I had undergone," Watson wrote (in "A Study in Scarlet") "I was removed, with a great train of wounded sufferers, to the base hospital at Peshawar." Alexander Orlov has found some interesting photographs of the Peshawar Valley Field Army during the Second Anglo-Afghan War, at <www.tinyurl.com/q6x5z7b> and <www.tinyurl.com/qgw4c3c> and <www.tinyurl.com/p4tygzc>. The photographs were taken by James Burke, the first photographer ever to work in Afghanistan, and you can read an interesting discussion of his life and career at <www.simonnorfolk.com/burkenorfolk/conversation.html>.
548. George A. Hough ("The Duke of Balmoral") died on Sept. 22. He was a journalist, working as a reporter, editor, and publisher, and went on to teach journalism at Michigan State University and Georgia State University until he retired in 1990. He was one of the founding members of The Greek interpreters in East Lansing in 1959, and he received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.
549. Karen Murdoch spotted a story published in the Derby Telegraph on Oct. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/oxaz9eu> about the upcoming sale at auction of two paintings by Peter Cushing; they're landscapes in watercolor, and the story includes images. The auction will be held on Dec. 2, and details will be online at Hansons Auctioneers' web-site <www.hansonsauctioneers.co.uk> about a week early.
550. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition has opened the Denver Museum of Nature & Science opened this month, and will run through Jan. 31; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/pc557jw>. The museum had an impressive video Q&A training session for volunteers, about Sherlock Holmes and forensic science, featuring E.J. Wagner; you can watch that (and see a brief appearance by her Havanese Wiggins) at <www.tinyurl.com/n9cm53v>.
551. Roger Johnson reports that The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street has closed for extensive refurbishment, and that Sue Collier has left after 16 years as manager. Owned by Whitbread & Co. when it opened in December 1957 with an upstairs display of Sherlock Holmes' sitting-room (for which Roger and Jean Upton are now the curators), the pub now is owned by Greene King, a British brewery established in 1799 by Benjamin Greene, the great-grand-grandfather of author Graham Greene (who wrote an introduction for the Murray/Cape edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR in 1974) and his brother Hugh Greene (who was director-general of the BBC and the editor of the "Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" series of books). The pub is expected to reopen in December.
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552. Oct 15 #4 Bouchercon 2105 in Raleigh was enjoyable, especially for Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, who won an Anthony Award (best anthology or collection); there was a Sherlockian panel (with Laurie, Les, Michael Robertson, Bonnie MacBird, and yours truly), and Laurie had an opportunity to dine with friends and fans of Mary Russell. Named in honor of the late Anthony Boucher, Bouchercon is the major annual event for mystery authors and readers, and is always great fun.
553. Bouchercon 2016 will be in New Orleans ("Blood on the Bayou"), Sept. 15-18; followed by Toronto ("Passport to Murder") Oct. 12-15, 2017; Saint Petersburg ("Crime in the Sunshine"), Sept. 13-16, 2018; Dallas ("Denim, Diamonds and Death") Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2019; and Sacramento ("Where Murder is a Capitol Crime"), Oct. 15-18, 2020. Information about Bouchercon, with links to future events, is on-line at the Bouchercon web-site <www.bouchercon.info>.
554. "Project 39" is an Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign by ComicFlix that will convert all 39 episodes of the Ronald Howard television series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" into graphic novels; there's more information and a video at <www.tinyurl.com/oxcxkb6>.
555. "Imagine a house that breathes when the wind blows through its chimneys. A home that bleeds through its pipes when you fill the bathtub with red clay water." That's the beginning of Arturo Conde's NBC News review (Sept. 21) of Guillermo del Toro's new movie "Crimson Peak" (which opened on Oct. 16); the review concludes by noting: "the ghosts of 'Frankenstein' author Mary Shelley, Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle, horror fiction master Edgar Allan Poe, and many others not only shape Del Toro's imagination, but also could help you uncover hidden stories in your own life."
556. Howard Ostrom's "From Watson with Love" is a video examination of the history of Sherlock Holmes on screen in Russia www.youtube.com/ojksp2j>. The 16-minute video is presented by Samantha Rae in Ross K. Foad's series "The Diogenes Documentaries".
557. Nikki Stafford's INVESTIGATING SHERLOCK: THE UNOFFICIAL GUIDE (Toronto: ECW Press, 2015; 229 pp., \$18.95) is an insightful companion to the first three seasons of the series, with discussions of its history, analysis of and commentary on each episode, and interviews with Canadian Sherlockians (Chris Redmond, Charles Prepolec, and Peter Calamai).
558. Barton A. Eberman ("The Hound of the Baskervilles") died on July 8. He was a member of The Hounds of the Baskerville, edited The Grimpen Mire Gazette (the newsletter of Hugo's Companions), and received their Most Notable Companion Award in 1988. Bart received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
559. Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (60 pp.) offers the usual mix of essays and articles, including Zachary Pamukcoglu's winning essay for the 2015 Clarkson Prize (which honors the late Steve Clarkson and is sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md.) and Denny Dobry's explanation of how one goes about "Recreating 221B"; the cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).
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560. Oct 15 #5 Further to the reports (Jun 10 #6 and July 10 #7) on the Sherlock Holmes elephant in Baker Street, installed during a fundraising campaign by Elephant Family (a financial support organization for endangered Asian elephants) and sold at auction for £9,750, those who purchased miniature reproductions of the Sherlock Holmes elephant will want to read the article in Vanity Fair (Nov. 2015) <www.tinurl.com/o4y8ydm> about Mark Shand, who founded the charity in 2002; he died in New York last year, and the story in Vanity Fair is headlined "The Untamed Aristocrat".
561. The Agra Treasurers will hold their "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends Three" conference in Dayton, Ohio, Apr. 15-16, 2016. More information is available from Ann Siefker <annsiefker@yahoo.com>.
562. THE BIG BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 2015; 780 pp., \$25.00), is a worthy successor to Ellery Queen's landmark anthology THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944). The new anthology offers many more pastiches and parodies, as one would expect, with seven more decades to draw from, and the authors are an excellent and varied selection of classic and modern admirers of Holmes and Watson; the quality of the selections is high indeed, and the new anthology is a fine demonstration of how much enjoyment imaginative writers can offer their readers.

563. Bill Peschel's anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES: EDWARDIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES I: 1900-1904 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2015; 319 pp., \$15.99) is the latest in his 223B Casebook Series, offering the results of a wide-ranging search through newspapers, magazines, and books, all annotated by the editor, who has included a pastiche of his own. His web-site, for both his press and his books, is at <www.peschelpress.com>.
564. Matthew Fox ("Vigor, the Hammersmith Wonder") died on Sept. 11. He served in the U.S. Navy, earned degrees in engineering and business, and went on to work for Coopers and Lybrand, an American Home Products. He was a member of The Hounds of the Baskerville, and a serious book collector. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.
565. Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (London: HarperCollins, 2015; 481 pp., £20.00) is subtitled "the mystery of the writers who invented the modern detective story," and examines members of the Detection Club and other authors of the 1920s and 1930s who followed the trail blazed by Conan Doyle but found new ways to entertain their readers. There's an occasional surprise for Doyleans, including discussion of Bruce Hamilton, who solicited a quote from his godfather Conan Doyle to support Hamilton's first novel TO BE HANGED (1930); Conan Doyle confided that not only had he forgotten the "transaction" of becoming Bruce's godparent, but that he felt the book faltered after a good start. According to Andrew Lycett's THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, Bruce's father Bernard Hamilton dedicated his novel A KISS FOR A KINGDOM (1899) to Conan Doyle and was a neighbor when Conan Doyle was living at Undershaw.
566. Finally, nicely in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books and DVDs of the year is on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.
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567. Oct 15 #6 Sherlock Holmes' 162nd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 15, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at the Press Box (932 Second Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets); attendees will pay their own checks, but need to reserve with Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com>.
568. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street), and the speaker will be Jeffrey Hatcher, who has written the plays "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders", and the screenplay for the film "Mr. Holmes". The cost of the lecture will be \$11.00; seating is limited, and you're advised to reserve early (details below); tickets won't be sold at the door.
569. The Baker Street Babes happily invite one and all to their "Daintiest Thing in a Dressing Gown Pyjama Party" which starts at 8:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South) and will be hosted by William Gillette; there will be a buffet dinner, cash bar, live music, prizes, toasts, and entertainment, and the cost is \$45.00, with proceeds benefiting the Wounded Warriors Project. Go to the Babes' web-site <www.bakerstreetbabes.com> for more information, and to purchase tickets.
570. Otto Penzler's traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.
571. The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at 12:30 at the Fillmore Room (the new name for Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant) at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Checks should be sent to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.
572. The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment (with the theme "Thieves, Scoundrels, and Rogues") at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); \$85.00 (checks or PayPal), and details are available from Christopher Zordan (184 Blew Court, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 <gaslightgal@gmail.com>; information is available at <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.
573. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 175 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.
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574. Oct 15 #7 On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) somewhere in the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; see the hotel directory for the location. Vendors can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> to request information about dealers' tables.
575. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:39 am, for devotees of the work of John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse; additional information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu>.
576. The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:15 to 4:15 in the grand ballroom on the 22nd floor of the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); there will be a cocktail-party buffet and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks), and the traditional (and perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 29 or at the door.
577. For those who wish to continue partying, Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host "The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner" at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); more information is available from Chrys (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.
578. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will end the birthday festivities with their informal buffet brunch on Sunday, at 11:30 am at the Black Sheep (583 Third Avenue, at 38th Street); \$25.00 (payable at the door, cash or check); RSVP to Lyndsay Faye <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>, please.
579. Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala on Friday, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.
580. Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate available only on reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 22; details will be found soon at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>. Guest cards for the Yale Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians, and it's a fine venue for socializing and relaxing.
581. Other hotels offer reasonable (according to New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.hotels.com>;

you will be wise if you then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

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582. Oct 15 #8 And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, go to <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html> after Nov. 8, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.
583. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
584. And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. News about additional events will be found in next month's issue of this newsletter.
585. On the stage: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Black Box Theatre at the University of Nevada Las Vegas through Nov. 8 <www.unlv.edu/pac>.
586. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Hickory Community Theatre in Hickory, N.C., from Nov. 6 to 21 <www.hickorycommunitytheatre.org>; and at the Moxie Theatre in San Diego, Calif., Nov. 8-Dec. 6 <www.moxietheatre.com>.
587. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is on tour by the Baroque Theatre Company, opening at the Weymouth Pavilion in Weymouth on Nov. 1, 2015 <www.baroquetheatre.com>. And at the Springs Park Playhouse in Lititz, Pa., on Dec. 17-20 <www.springsparkplayhouse.com>.
588. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Pierson Playhouse in Pacific Palisades, Calif., from Nov. 6 to Dec. 13 <www.theatrepalisades.org>; at the Javeenbah Theatre in Nerang, Queensland, Nov. 13-18 <www.javeenbah.org.au>; at the Port Angeles Community Playhouse in Port Angeles, Wash., Nov. 20 to Dec. 6 <www.pacomunityplayers.com>; at the Minnedosa Community Conference Center in Minnedosa, Manitoba, Nov. 26-28 <www.facebook.com/minnedosa.dramaclub>; at the Olympia Little Theatre in Olympia, Wash., Nov. 27 to Dec. 20 <www.olympialittletheatre.org>; and at the Virginia Beach Little Theatre, in Virginia Beach, Va., Jan. 15-Feb. 7 <www.ltvb.com>.
589. Katie Forrette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed by the Vicksburg Theatre Guild in Vicksburg, Miss., Nov. 13 to 23 <www.vicksburgtheatreguild.com>. And by the Alvin Community College Drama Department in Alvin, Tex., Dec. 5-12, 2015 <www.alvincollege.edu/drama>.
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590. Nov 15 #1 There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: Jim Cox and Dore Nash will lead the Christopher Morley Walk on Thursday, leaving at 9:30 am from the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel (entrance on 45th Street east of Madison), and the walk will conclude with the Christopher Morley luncheon at 1:30 pm at McSorley's Old Ale House at 15 East 7th Street (between First and Second Avenues); details are available from Jim Cox <jasdcox@yahoo.com>. The correct price for the Gaslight Gala on Friday is \$90.00; cazordan@aim.com for PayPal. The Baker Street Irregulars table in the Merchants Room on Saturday will be accepting credit-card payments. Scott Monty suggests an addition to the web-sites offering alternatives for places to stay: <www.airbnb.com>.
591. Scott also notes that episode 84 of "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" offers listeners' suggestions for Sherlockian gifts for the holiday, and a link to a shopping page on the web-site <www.ihose.co/ihose84>; and that episode 85 <www.ihose.co/ihose85> features with author/screenwriter Nicholas Meyer in which he discusses his creative process and his Sherlockian work. The 2015 Baker Street Journal's Christmas Annual will honor the 40th anniversary of THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION; it is available only to subscribers, and you can still subscribe to the BSJ for 2015 at <www.tinyurl.com/j6msg9y>.
592. Further to the review of MYCROFT HOLMES, the pastiche written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (Jun 15 #2), John Rabe had a nice 15-minute interview with Kareem on John's "Off-Ramp" radio series on KPCC-FM on Sept. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/pmc9y6u>.
593. Further to the item about plans to convert Baker Street to two-way traffic (Oct 15 #2), there's another change due: according to Nicholas Lezard (in the New Statesman) <www.tinyurl.com/pc5ghmo>, "The underpass under Marylebone Road will be transformed...into a urine-free Wonderpass." The Baker Street Quarter Partnership's proposal, with attractive artwork, can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/pywkfp3>.
594. Alexander Orlov reports a fascinating two-minute "demo reel" showing (with scenes from the Russian television series starring Igor Petrenko) just how much can be done with computer-generated imagery [CGI] nowadays. You can see the wonders for yourself at <www.vimeo.com/98542378>.
595. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, now at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science through Jan. 31, will next be seen at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton, Mar. 25-Sept. 5 <www.telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca>. It moves to the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016, and then to Sydney, Australia.
596. Mike Collins' SHERLOCK: THE MIND PALACE (London: BBC Books, 2015; 80 pp., £9.99) is an official "colouring book adventure" with imaginative artwork that recreates scenes from the series (with hidden clues from each of the nine episodes) and offers enthusiasts an opportunity to be artistic. The hidden clues have already triggered discussions on the Internet among fans who have detected hints about future developments in the series; one of the (possible) discoveries will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/qa3pude>.
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597. Nov 15 #2 Reported: THE CLASSIC ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (from Jim French Productions \$39.95 each): four sets of 12 full-cast audio dramatizations by M. J. Elliott, featuring John Patrick Lowrie as Holmes and Lawrence Albert as Watson; the sets are the start of a project aimed at recording the entire Canon with the same actors as Holmes and Watson. More information is available at <www.jimfrenchproductions.com>.
598. "Stop, You're Killing Me!" <www.stopyourekillngme.com> is an interesting web-site maintained by Lucinda Surber and Stan Ulrich, with lists of authors (4,700) and their books (more than 54,000 titles) and their characters, with indexes and other neat features; it's well worth exploring.
599. "It's kindergarten, my dear," is the attractive sample artwork from BABY SHERLOCK: THE CRUMBS OF BASKERVILLE, a children's book by S. Mickey Lin with artwork by Elle Shengxuan Shi; Alexander Orlov discovered a Kickstarter campaign at <www.tinyurl.com/q2h88yb>
600. Gordon R. Shriver's BORIS KARLOFF: THE MAN REMEMBERED (Baltimore: PublishAmerica, 2004; 208 pp., \$23.00 postpaid) is a fine biography of the actor, and includes information about his appearance as Mr. Mycroft in "The Sting of Death" (1955) and his many other roles on stage, screen, radio, television, and records. Gordon still has a few copies for sale, and you can order direct from him <sgord57@aol.com>, and pay by check or PayPal.

601. Leslie S. Klinger has edited the anthology *IN THE SHADOW OF EDGAR ALLAN POE* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2015; 320 pp., \$24.95), presenting twenty classic stories of horror and terror published from 1816 to 1914; there's an interesting introduction, with the authors ranging from the famous to the almost forgotten, and Conan Doyle is represented by "The Leather Funnel".
602. N. Quentin Woolf presides over the interesting podcast "Londonist Out Loud" <www.londonist.com/podcasts/londonist-out-loud-sherlock-squared>; on Oct. 3 he posted a 46-minute interview with Bonnie MacBird, author of the pastiche *ART IN THE BLOOD* (Jun 15 #5).
603. "Seeing Is Believing" is an exhibition of early 20th-century spirit photographs at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Mich., through Jan. 17; the exhibition features of photographs from the collection of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, on loan from the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin <www.tinyurl.com/q8jc9hu>.
604. Reported: the new *Crime Scene Magazine* is advertised as "the ultimate guide to crime drama!"; it's a quarterly, published in Britain, and it has a page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/oxaf4yj> with a link to a detailed review at the GamesRadar web-site.
605. The modern *Strand Magazine* is an interesting successor to the original, and has occasional Sherlockian content; it's published quarterly, and managing editor Andrew Gulli has a knack for finding previously unpublished stories. The July-Oct. issue has that sort of intriguing story, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, plus a pastiche by Larry Millett ("The Opera Thief"). Subscriptions cost \$24.95 a year at their web-site <www.strandmag.com>.

606. Nov 15 #3 Further to the report (May 15 #3) about Marcel Jaurant Singer, the last living member of the Baker Street Irregulars (the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters in Baker Street during World War Two (and was sometimes called the "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare")), Susan Elia MacNeal is writing an on-going series of mystery novels featuring Maggie Hope, a member of the SOE. The latest (fifth) title in the series is *MRS. ROOSEVELT'S CONFIDANTE*, just out from Bantam.
607. The L.A. Theatre Works recording of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) with Seamus Dever as Holmes and Geoffrey Arend as Watson (Sep 14 #8) has won an Audie Award (best audio drama) from the Audio Publishers Association. The two-CD set is available at <www.latw.org/radio.html>.
608. Maureen O'Hara died on Oct. 24. She started her acting career on stage in Ireland, and became a movie star at the age of 19, as Esmeralda in Charles Laughton's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" (1939). She acted in many other fine films, and the one with a tenuous Sherlockian connection is "The Quiet Man" (1952): the morning after Mary Kate Danaher's marriage to Sean Thornton the newlyweds are serenaded by the locals singing "Mush, Mush" (the music's now used by Sherlockians when singing "We Never Mention Aunt Clara").
609. Just in time for Christmas: a Sherlock Holmes Meerkat (10 in. high) from Acorn (#19742) (\$69.95) <www.tinyurl.com/q2aoq2f>; there's also a Hercule Poirot Meerkat (same item number and price).
610. Karen Murdock discovered a locksmith using the company name Surelock Homes <www.surelockathome.com>; there is no Sherlockian artwork at the web-site, nor any mention of Conan Doyle, but the company's is conveniently located in Portsmouth in the U.K.
611. Jim Clark has used modern technology to create a fascinating virtual movie of Basil Rathbone reciting Vincent Starrett's classic sonnet "221B"; it's available at <www.youtube.com/watch?V=12iCXXzKQSU>.
612. You can now register for "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the title of the next conference in Minneapolis, June 17-19, 2016, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries); details, including a registration form, are available at <www.tinyurl.com/nuzvg3w>.
613. Kate Tracy reports a 1-minute video teaser for "S-her-lock: the Web Series" at <www.vimeo.com/142970359>, with a link to a screening of the first two episodes in Portland, Maine, on Nov. 13.
614. David Jaher's *THE WITCH OF LIME STREET: SÉANCE, SEDUCTION, AND HOUDINI IN THE SPIRIT WORLD* (New York: Crown, 2015; 436 pp., \$28.00) is the carefully-researched and detailed history of Mina Crandon, whose performances as the medium Margery provided a real test of the Scientific American challenge in the 1920s; Houdini was her most energetic and fervent opponents, and Conan Doyle one of her principal advocates in the 1920s, and the book is a well-written account of their histories and the battle over whether her powers were real or fraudulent.

615. Nov 15 #4 The Surgeon's Hall Museums of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh have reopened after a £4 million renovation, and publicity for the event included mention of an exhibit related to Dr. Joseph Bell. The college was an active bidder at Christie's when the Conan Doyle family papers went to auction in 2004, buying three lots, one of which included a poem that Conan Doyle wrote about the college.
616. The "Caganer" (translated from Catalan, that's the merry fertilizer, or another phrase that might not get through obscenity filters) has been featured in Christmas crèches in Catalonia at least since the 18th century, enriching the soil and bringing good health and calm to the body and soul. Joan Proubasta, in 1996, commissioned a Sherlock Holmes Caganer and sent it to his friends, and now there's a commercial version, in two variants <www.tinyurl.com/ntkuvh3>. The Amics del Caganer www.amicsdelcaganer.com has an interesting web-site (Google Translate will be of great assistance to those who are less than fluent in Catalan), and of course there is a Wikipedia entry for the Caganer. Joan reports that there will be a Caganer fair in December, with more than 200 celebrities displayed and sold.
617. There's a new edition of *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, from Universe and Andrew McMeel (366 pp., \$14.99); the reason why there are 366 pages is that it's also a day-by-day calendar for 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/nzgczb>.
618. A new "Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition" of *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE NOVELS* (New York: Penguin Books, 2015; 571 pp., \$25.00) has an insightful introduction by Michael Dirda, and jacket artwork by Adam Simpson that's imaginative and attractive.
619. Jens Byskov Jensen provides vocals and fiddle for his country and western swing show band "Doctor Django and His Nurses" now performing in Denmark, surely a new musical genre for a member of The Baker Street Irregulars; his web-site is at <www.byskovjensen.com>, and you can listen to his music at YouTube <www.youtube.com/user/byskovjensen>.
620. The Jersey Devil Press, an on-line magazine, has issued a call for submissions for a January issue devoted to Sherlock Holmes; their deadline is Dec. 31 <www.jerseydevilpress.com/?p=6911>.
621. *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE GRINNING CAT*, by Joseph W. Svec III (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 410 pp., \$9.95), brings Holmes and Watson into the world of Wonderland, where they find H. G. Wells' time machine and some Carrollian logic puzzles as well as many of the characters Alice encountered there. The publisher's web-sites are at www.mxpublishing.com and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
622. Greg Kramer's "Sherlock Holmes" (which had its world premiere in Montréal in May 2013) has toured to Los Angeles, Toronto, Washington, and Chicago, starring David Arquette and James Maslow as Holmes and Watson. The play's an amusing mix, with scenes taken from the Canon, broad comedy, a new mystery, and imaginative staging. There's an interesting web-site (with some nice links) at <www.sherlockholmesonstage.com>, and the playbill's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/pwyp27t>.

623. Nov 15 #5 Who's your favorite fictional hero or heroine?" was the question in a "By the Book" interview in the N.Y. Times Sunday Book Review (Nov. 8). "Sherlock Holmes," was Nathan Lane's answer. "Talk about an enduring creation. Brilliant, flawed, and lonely. And it made Benedict Cumberbatch a star. Hear, hear, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." Kindly reported by Ray Betzner; the complete interview is at <www.tinyurl.com/nrdm2q8>.
624. Reported: Richard Tomlinson's AMAZING GRACE: THE MAN WHO WAS W.G. (London: Little, Brown, 2015; 432 pp., £25.00); a biography of the famous cricketer who once played against Conan Doyle.
625. Collider (a web-site for entertainment news) had an interview with Charlie Hunnam (who stars in "Crimson Peak") about the film and Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/qxkvnu7>. Hunnam is now at work starring as Col. Percy H. Fawcett in "The Lost City of Z" (Feb 15 #4).
626. The team that maintains a non-profit and unofficial fan-site for the television series "Elementary" has announced that they will shut down the web-site in December take a look before it vanishes <www.thedeductionist.net>.
627. There's nice news for people who have enjoyed the delightful three-man version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that was dramatized by John Nicholson and Steven Canny for Peepolykus (2007) and has had many productions in the U.K., the U.S., and other countries: their new play "The Massive Tragedy of Madame Bovary" will open in Liverpool on Feb. 5. "Marvel at how many parts a Spanish man with limited English can play with only one moustache," they promise, adding that "there will be vermin, visual absurdity, wild animals, and a nun." <www.peepolykus.com>.
628. Mikel Jaso's artwork (titled "Ceci n'est pas Sherlock Holmes") accompanied a review of Sherlockian books in the Sunday Book Review of the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/p92pwgc>; it's a delightful artistic homage to René Magritte's iconic surrealist painting "La trahison des images".
629. Noted: Stephen Bates' THE POISONER: THE LIFE AND CRIMES OF ENGLAND'S MOST NOTORIOUS POISONER (London: Duckworth, 2014; 320 pp., £16.99) is a detailed account of the nefarious activities of the infamous William Palmer; "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession," according to Sherlock Holmes (in "The Speckled Band").
630. Keith Michell died on Nov. 20. Best-known for his portrayals of King Henry VIII on stage, screen, and television, Michell had a long career as an actor, including his appearance as Sherlock Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" in London in 1979.
631. Rachel and Rebecca Oshlag are professional story-tellers, and they perform as "Stories Galorious"; they will presenting "An Evening at Baker Street: The Adventure of the Speckled Band" for the Sherlockian society Rochester Row on Dec. 7 in Rochester, N.Y., and on Dec. 21 in Greece, N.Y., and Feb. 15 in Williamsville, N.Y. They're also doing "Holmes for the Holidays: The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" on Dec. 10 in Gorham, N.Y., and their web-site's at <www.storiesgalorious.com>.
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632. Nov 15 #6 There seem to be fewer and fewer Sherlockians who share Sherlock Holmes' penchant for smoking, but one company, at least, still sells appropriate Sherlockian pipe tobacco: "Black Shag", "Honeydew", and "Arcadia" all are available in McClelland's "221B Series" in a catalog from Pipe and Cigars (800-494-9144) <www.pipesandcigars.com>.
633. And on stage: Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is on at the Dudley Experimental Theatre in Duluth, Minn., through Dec. 5 <www.sfa.d.umn.edu>.
634. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is being presented by the Forte Theatre Society at the Burnaby Village Museum in Burnaby, B.C., through Dec. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/ohuguw4>.
635. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Stage Coach Theatre in Boise, Idaho, through Dec. 19 <www.stagecoachtheatre.com> and the West Valley Playhouse in Canoga Park, Calif., through Dec. 29 <www.wvplayhouse.com>. And it's due at the Rogers City Community Theatre in Roger City, Mich., from Jan. 29 to Feb. 7 <www.rcctheatre.org>.
636. Michael Menendian and John Weagley's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" will be performed at the Raven Theatre in Chicago, Dec. 9-Jan. 3 <www.raventheatre.com>.
637. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Conejo Players Theatre in Thousand Oaks, Calif., on Jan. 8-30 <www.conejoplayers.org>.
638. "The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Mercury Theater in Chicago Jan. 20-Mar. 20 <www.mercurytheaterchicago.com>. The new musical is by John Reeger (book) and Julie Shannon and Michael Mahler (lyrics and music).
639. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed on tour by the Royal Manitoba Theatre in Manitoba province, Jan. 25 to Feb. 26 <www.royalmtc.ca>. Also at the Portland Stage in Portland, Maine, Jan. 26-Feb. 21 <www.portlandstage.org>, and at the Northern Stage in White River Junction, Vt., from Feb 24 to Mar. 12 <www.northernstage.org>.
640. The Sugar Creek Players have scheduled Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" at the Vanity Theater in Crawfordsville, Ind., Feb. 12-21, 2016 <www.sugarcreekplayers.org>.
641. C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Doom of Devilsmoor" is upcoming at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Feb. 26-Mar. 26 <www.theatresuburbia.org>.
642. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Althos Low) will be presented by the Idle Muse Theatre Company at the EDGE Theatre in Chicago, Mar. 3-Apr. 3, 2016 <www.idlemuse.org>.
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643. Dec 15 #1 Scott Monty's "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.ihose.co/bsi2016tips>, offers a "series of tips for the veteran attendees and the newbies alike" that include ride-hailing apps such as Uber, Lyft, and Via (with codes for freebies and credits). Scott aptly suggests that "whether you're making the trip for the first or twenty-first time, you know that the Weekend provides the same level of excitement, anticipation, and giddiness as Christmas morning does for a child."
644. There's more than one edition of SHERLOCK HOLMES: CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION HELD AT ABBEY HOUSE, BAKER STREET, LONDON, MAY-SEPTEMBER 1951; starting with the first edition (59 numbered pages); the second edition (60 numbered pages) also has a limited edition with 50 numbered copies, and I hope any fortunate owners of numbered copies will let me know (including whether there are inscriptions or signatures).
645. It's grand when Sherlockian societies have archives, and even grander when there's a good editor to put together a history. That's what Christopher Music has done, and done well, for The Amateur Mendicants of Detroit: FROM THE LOWER VAULT (2015; 183 pp., \$25.00 postpaid), covers the early years of the society, from 1946 to 1964, and it's great fun to see what Sherlockians did in those distant years. Checks (payable to Amateur Mendicants Society) can be sent to Chris at 6717 Snow Apple Drive, Clarkston, MI 48346.
646. Nicholas Smith died on Dec. 6. Best known as Mr. Rumbold on the long running BBC television series "Are You Being Served?", he also played Hunkston, the landlord, in the film "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and Milverton in the Middle Ground Theatre Company's 1997 revival of Ernest Dudley's play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes".

647. Plan well ahead: Denny Dobry has for many years welcomed those who want to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street in his home in Reading, Pa. <www.facebook.com/221binReading>, and he is holding an open house on Apr. 9, 2016, from 1:00 to 6:00 pm; one of the nicest things about his sitting-room is that it's hands-on, and full of interesting artifacts. You can contact him to RSVP for the event (and to ask for directions <dendobry@ptd.net>).
648. The animated movie "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" was first reported as a work-in-progress a few years ago (Mar 12 #6 and Sep 12 #2), with Gnomeo and Juliet enlisting the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, to investigate why gnomes are vanishing from England's suburban gardens. It's still a work-in-progress, but Johnny Depp has been announced as the voice of Sherlock Gnomes, and the film's scheduled for release on Jan. 12, 2018.
649. Sherlock Holmes' granduncle, Horace Vernet, was a photographer as well as an artist; he visited Egypt with his nephew Frédéric Goupil-Fesquet, and in 1838 they exposed a daguerrotype that was the first photograph ever taken on the African continent. Leslie Katz reports that the photograph is reprinted in Jeff Koehler's article "Capturing the Light of the Nile" in the Nov.-Dec. issue of *AramcoWorld* <www.tinyurl.com/pac3v8x>.
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650. Dec 15 #2 Further to the item about Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes, candidate for mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. (Oct 15 #2), it was not a surprise to locals when he came in last, with three votes. He also was arrested at a polling site the morning of the election and charged with obstruction of justice, communicating threats, and resisting arrest, after he shouted obscene statements and refused to leave.
651. BBC One had an amusing trailer for Christmas 2015: "Sprout Boy Meets a Galaxy of Stars" (with a fleeting glimpse of Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman); you can see it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnoxGr_sTz4>.
652. At long last, after all these years, there's a Sherlockian cross-over collectible from the world of Star Wars. Well, it's Doylean rather than Sherlockian, but no matter: Randall Stock spotted on eBay a press kit for "Star Wars" (1977) that includes a press release that begins with an almost-correct quote of Conan Doyle epigraph poem from *THE LOST WORLD*. The press kit attracted 43 bids, and sold for \$414.00.
653. And in case you don't remember Conan Doyle's delightful poem, he wrote: "I have wrought my simple plan/If I give one hour of joy/To the boy who's half a man/Or the man who's half a boy."
654. Actually, there is another connection between "Star Wars" and the world of Sherlock Holmes. Clive Revill, who provided the voice for the villainous Emperor in "The Empire Strikes Back" (1980), also appeared in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) as Nikolai Rogozhin, the director-general of the Imperial Russian Ballet.
655. There is no shortage of giant rats in southeast Asia: archaeologists with the Australian National University have discovered fossils of seven species of giant rat on East Timor, with the largest weighing about five kilos, the size of a small dog (a large modern rat would weigh about half a kilo); a press release will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/oq8na6o>.
656. Anthony Valentine died on Dec. 2. He began his acting career on screen in 1949 and was best known as Luftwaffe officer Max Mohn in the BBC-2 series "Colditz" (1974) and as A. J. Raffles in Yorkshire Television's "Raffles" (1975-1977); he also was seen as Baron Gruner in Granada's "The Illustrious Client" (1991), and narrated "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" (1995) for A&E cable's "Biography" series.
657. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Dempsey's Brew Pub & Restaurant in Baltimore on Nov. 4, welcomed by members of the local Sherlockian societies. Our next dinners will be on June 22, 2016, in Calgary, and Sept. 28 in Denver.
658. Book collectors do like dust jackets, especially if they are colorful and artistic, and you can see how attractive they can be with a set of Mysterious Classics Cards showing more than sixty high spots, available (\$14.95) from The Mysterious Bookshop <www.tinyurl.com/nenaou9>; the titles include A. A. Milne's *THE RED HOUSE MYSTERY* (in which two of the characters assume the roles of Holmes and Watson).
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659. Dec 15 #3 According to Philip José Farmer, the Wold Newton family originated when a radioactive meteor landed in Wold Newton, England, in the year 1795; the radiation caused a genetic mutation in those who were present, which endowed many of their descendants with extremely high intelligence and strength, and an exceptional capacity and drive to perform good (or evil) deeds. The family includes Sherlock Holmes, Tarzan, and a host of other fictional characters (and it still is growing, thanks to what is called the "Crossover Universe"). The Crossover Universe is now so large, in fact, that it has been described in great detail by Win Scott Eckert in the two-volume *CROSSTOVERS: A SECRET CHRONOLOGY OF THE WORLD* (Encino: Black Coat Press, 2010; 460+480 pp., \$30.95 each), where you'll find a lot about Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, Sir Nigel Loring, Professor George Edward Challenger, and other characters from the Conan Doyle book's and stories (and of course from many pastiches and parodies). You can read more about Eckert's work at <www.blackcoatpress.com/crossovers.htm>.
660. Steven Spielberg has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom; he was the executive producer for the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), and there's more information about the ceremony, and the medal, at Greg Ruby's web-site for The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/zdnc7vu>.
661. Carter Burwell is not well known to the general public, but he's a prolific composer for films <www.tinyurl.com/p29mlmw> and has written scores for six Bill Condon films, among them Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes"; the soundtrack for that film is available on CD and as a download at Amazon and elsewhere. And Karen Murdock reports an interesting interview with Burwell in the Los Angeles Times (Dec. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/heumf3x>.
662. Marjorie Lord died on Nov. 28. She began acting on stage in 1935, and in films in 1937, and was most successful on the long-running television series "The Danny Thomas Show"; she also played Nancy Partridge in "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943).
663. The Portsmouth City Council has unveiled a new proposal to create a "worldclass Sherlock Holmes visitor attraction" in the city, with the cost estimated at £7 million, but noted that there's no funding for the project. A similar plan was publicized last year (Feb 14 #8), with an estimated cost of £25 million, but the city was unable to find a financial backer.
664. Jon Lellenberg has reactivated his archival-history blog, and has started posting what he calls "Edgar W. Smith: Prolegomena to Any Future Biography" as a serial, a few thousand words at a time from what he calls a work-inprogress <www.tinyurl.com/owbwq62>.
665. Michael Hardwick's *PRISONER OF THE DEVIL* (1979) was approved by Dame Jean Conan Doyle and well received, and it is nice news indeed that after many years out-of-print the novel has a new edition, by Michael Hardwick, with Simon Haugh (New York: Meantime Books, 2016; 414 pp., \$15.95). Mike Brecher, editor of the first edition, explains in his introduction that it was Simon Haugh who provided the concept and plot of the pastiche, with Michael Hardwick contributing both his Sherlockian sensibilities and his knowledge of Conan Doyle's style. The new edition includes an alternative ending to the novel, discovered by Simon Haugh in his files on the project.
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666. Dec 15 #4 *THE ELEMENTARY SHERLOCK HOLMES* (London: Portico, 2014; 160 pp., \$16.95) is, according to the publisher (Pavilion Books), based on *THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ENCYCLOPEDIA*, but they don't say which one (it most likely is Matthew Bunson's); there's lots of artwork, and pages of "things you didn't know about literature's greatest detective."

667. Adam Zanzie has completed his 31-minute dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The Parasite" (Apr 15 #5), and it's an impressive production. You can watch a trailer, and download the video (\$4.99) at <www.theparasite.vhx.tv>.
668. There's an addition to the list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes: many American actors have appeared in television commercials in other countries, and one of them is Kirk Douglas, in a Japanese 30-second commercial for Maxim instant coffee <www.tinyurl.com/opszb5m>, discovered by Jennie C. Paton.
669. I recall seeing a faked Time magazine cover with Sherlock Holmes as the Man of the Year, but can't remember the name of the artist, or where or when it appeared; I'd love to hear from anyone who has a better memory than I do.
670. Reported by Bev Wolov: Ingrid Mida and Alexandra Kim's THE DRESS DETECTIVE (London: Bloomsbury, 2015; 224 pp., £75.00) is subtitled "a practical guide to object-based research in fashion," and opens with two pages devoted to an excerpt from "The Blue Carbuncle" (noting that "unlocking the personal and cultural narratives hidden in the folds of a garment is a little bit like being Sherlock Holmes").
671. Ryan Britt's "17 Hilarious Honest Definitions of Sci-Fi and Fantasy Terms" appeared on BuzzFeed on Dec. 9, Samantha Wolov reports, and one of the 17 was Sherlock Holmes; you'll find them all at <www.tinyurl.com/qd45hhj>.
672. The Baker Street Irregulars Trust continues to expand its holdings, and its web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, where there's much of interest, including current and past issues of its newsletter "For the Sake of the Trust" (click on [News]), reports on its annual dinners (click on [Images]), and links to some of its oral history (click on [Recordings]).
673. Kate Karlson reports that Mrs. Hudson, a three-year-old filly by Dark Bay out of Street Cry, made her second lifetime win at Aqueduct on Dec. 10 in a \$67,000 allowance race at six furlongs, and paid \$4.50 to win.
674. Basil of Baker Street and his friend Major Dawson still have fans: studioused maquettes prepared for animators were sold at Heritage Auctions this month for \$2,031.50 and \$1,195.00 <www.tinyurl.com/h9h4hen>.
675. The auction at Swann Galleries on Nov. 10 had some interesting Sherlockian and Doylean items (#92-113); the most interesting, perhaps, was a copy of the first American edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in Tabard Inn library binding with dust jacket (estimated at \$4,000-6,000), which brought \$8,125 (including the buyer's premium). A copy of the Once a Week Library pirated edition of THE SIGN OF FOUR (the first separate American edition) was estimated at \$7,000-10,000 and sold for \$8,125 (including the premium) <www.tinyurl.com/p2c965u>.

676. Dec 15 #5 Fyodor Pavlov's interesting artwork, reported by Carla Coupe, has appeared on the cover of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine, and his Sherlockian images are available as greeting cards and stickers, and as original art; go to <www.fyodorpavlov.com> and click on [Shop]. Warning: some of his other artwork may not be for the faint of heart.
677. Patricia Guy's interview with Umberto Eco appeared in the Oct. 26 issue of Publishers Weekly, and of course included an amusing discussion of his THE NAME OF THE ROSE <www.bit.ly/1HiqndI>.
678. "AUNT CLARA" CLARIFIED is a delightful 19-page booklet published by William Hyder "unearthing the original tune of "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" in the year of its 80th anniversary" and available to musical Sherlockians on request from Bill <shawgas29@gmail.com>, who has contributed new insights on the music of what has become a Sherlockian anthem.
679. THE ADVENTURE OF THE PLATED SPOON AND OTHER TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Loren Estleman (Blue Ash: Tyrus Books, 2014; 272 pp., \$26.99), offers an interesting mix of a dozen reprints and new stories (including one of his own).
680. Greg Ruby has noted Red Scharlach's artwork <www.tinyurl.com/o2hlqv> for a new British £10 note; the Bank of England has announced that Jane Austen will appear on the £10 note in 2017, but Red suggests that they switch to Cumberquids.
681. The N.Y. Times reported (Nov. 1) that the St. Regis in New York offers its guests a Kindle that's encased in a custom-made Thornwillow Press leatherbound cover, with digital versions of 58 titles from the original collection of its founder John Jacob Astor IV; one of them is THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.
682. Andrew "Sherlock" Holmes died on Oct. 18, in Nortonville, Ky., at the age of 86. It's possible that more and more people named Holmes are proud to have the nickname, but it's also possible that it's only that the Internet makes it easier to hear about them.
683. The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has a Napoleonic theme, honoring the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
684. The 2014 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Lyndsay Faye (on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator"), and her paper has been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now. Their web-site <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$25.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2015 Memorial Lecture (by Clifford Goldfarb on "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo"). The 2016 Memorial Lecture will be given by Russell Merritt (on the William Gillette film) on May 28.

685. Dec 15 #6 "Epic Rap Battles of History" is a continuing series of short videos you can view at YouTube; there was "Batmam vs. Sherlock Holmes" (Dec 12 #2), and Jennie Paton reports there now is "Sherlock Hound vs. Montana Jones" <www.tinyurl.com/oxmhewc>. "Montana Jones" was another Japanese/Italian animated series (with big cats rather than the dogs that were featured in "Sherlock Hound").
686. "9 Auction Oddities--The Craziest Prices for the Loopiast Lots Ever to Go Under the Hammer" was the headline on a story in The Mirror (Oct. 27); one of the lots was an envelope kept by Lady Jean Conan Doyle labeled "My beloved's moustache hairs" that was sold at an auction in 2007 for £156. The Mirror noted that "the buyer was bristly about being identified..."
687. Ray Betzner has reported on a "Review Contest" on the N.Y. Times blog "The Learning Network": in October teenagers were challenged "to go out and experience works of culture that were new to them, and then write about it." More than 1,600 students responded, and one of the winners was 14-year-old Maya J. Sekhar, who reviewed the BBC's "Sherlock" series. Details on the contest, and her winning entry, will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/h7pew42>.
688. Don Marquis, perhaps most famous today for creating "archy and mehitabel", was a multi-talented newspaper columnist, poet, playwright, and novelist, as well a good friend of and collaborator with Christopher Morley. There is an interesting and amusing web-site <www.donmarquis.com> presided over by Jim Ennis and John Batteiger and devoted to Marquis and his "tall tales and light verse," and there are plans afoot for an archyFest next year to celebrate archy's 100th birthday on Mar. 29.

689. Robert Adey died on Jan. 4. He was a devoted scholar in the field of mysteries, compiling the landmark bibliography LOCKED ROOM MURDERS AND OTHER IMPOSSIBLE CRIMES (1991) and edited many fine anthologies, including AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN: A COLLECTION OF SHERLOCKIAN PARODIES FROM UNLIKELY SOURCES (Dec 99 #6) based on his research in humor magazine from the 1890s onwards.
690. And there's theater, starting with "Sherlock Holmes et le chiens des Baskerville" (the francophone premiere of the parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) running at the Théâtre Denise-Pelletier in Montréal through Jan. 18 <www.denise-pelletier.qc.ca>.
691. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Springs Ensemble Theater in Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 21-Feb. 7 <www.springsensembletheater.org>.
692. "The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (by Alex H. Coy and Andrew Moritz) is first episode of a monthly series scheduled at the Overtime Theater in San Antonio, Tex., Jan. 29-30 <www.tinyurl.com/grwx44z>.
693. The Elkhart Civic Theater is presenting "The Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) at the Bristol Opera House in Bristol, Ind., Feb. 5-7 <www.elkhartcivictheater.org>.

Jan 16 #1:

1. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 162nd birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 13 to Jan. 17. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at the Press Box and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.
 2. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Jeffrey Hatcher, author of the plays "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders", and the screenplay for the film "Mr. Holmes"; his talk was titled "Casting Holmes" (and it will be published in the next issue of The Baker Street Journal).
 3. The Baker Street Babes's festivities (this year called the "Daintiest Thing in a Dressing Gown Pyjama Party") at The Players featured drinking and dining, as well as costumes, revelry, and an auction benefiting the Disabled American Veterans Trust.
 4. The William Gillette Luncheon at the Fillmore Room was well attended, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Andrew Joffe, and Sarah Montague) entertained the audience with a look at what happened when Dr. and Mrs. Watson sought marriage counseling. The event also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan Whimsey Award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year: the winner (Steve Mason) received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
 5. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Glen Miranker proposed the preprandial first toast to Nancy Browning as The Woman. And the agenda of the dinner featured the traditional BSI toasts and rituals, a tribute to Edith Meiser by Bert Coules, a "Duet: With an Occasional Chorus" account of the role of women in the BSI from 1934 to the present by Peter Blau and Evy Herzog (which concluded with the singing for the first time at an annual dinner of the BSI of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' "Reindeer Song"), a discussion of the rational roots of Holmes' feelings about women by Susan Rice, musical performances by Susan Dahlinger and Betsy Rosenblatt, and a reading of the Constitution and Buy-Laws by the BSI's most senior member, Tony Montag.
 6. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") honored Tony Montag more than fifty years as an Irregular, and presented a Two-Shilling Award to Tom Francis. There were Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) awarded to Dana Cameron ("The Giant Rat of Sumatra"), Bert Coules ("The Whole Art of Detection"), John Durein ("Wilson, the Notorious Canary Trainer"), Jenn Eaker ("Mary Sutherland"), Jayantika Ganguly ("The Great Agra Treasure"), Timothy Greer ("The Ragged Shaw"), and Will Walsh ("Godfrey Norton"). Mike Whelan also appointed two more officers of the BSI: Michael Kean (as "Cartwright") and Bob Katz (as "Billy the Page").
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7. Jan 16 #2 An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club (with members of 40 Sherlockian societies from three continents and six nations); the agenda included musical tributes to a series of Canonical villains (Karen Wilson honored Irene Adler with "The Lady Is a Scamp").
 8. Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots.
 9. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, as well as authors and editors happy to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured a dramatic reading of P. G. Wodehouse's "From a Detective's Notebook", followed by discussion of Adrian's deductions.
 10. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; Chris Redmond was honored as winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check accompanied by an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2015. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of tickets for the raffle prize (the golden sovereign Irene Adler gave to Holmes, and Irene's wedding jewelry handcrafted by Maggie Schpak for The Curious Collectors of Baker Street), and an auction of attractive donations to the Fund.
 11. The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Black Sheep.
 12. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 6, 2017. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 14, 2017.
 13. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$41.95 (to the U.S.) or \$55.00 (elsewhere); payment by credit card or PayPal is welcome, or you can pay by check sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077).
 14. You can also subscribe at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSI, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
 15. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) the 2016 edition of his "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).
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16. Jan 16 #3 The title of The Baker Street Journal's 2015 Christmas Annual is "Together Again for the First Time" (a tribute to Nicholas Meyer and his best-selling THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION and the film based on his book, which helped launch the "Sherlock Holmes Boom" of the 1970s; it's now in the hands of BSI subscribers, and otherwise unavailable unless you can find it on eBay or wherever.

17. The BSJ's 2016 Christmas Annual is going to be a centennial tribute to William William Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes", edited by Russell Merritt and included as part of subscriptions to the BSJ.
18. There were new many books available for the first time during the birthday festivities, and they will be reviewed in next month's issue, when I've had a chance to read them. As they say, stay tuned.
19. The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long anual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, an editorial on the Sherlockian traditions of EQMM by Janet Hutchings, a reprint of a pastiche by Robert Arthur, a new pastiche by Keith Hann, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
20. Beryl Vertue was included on the Queen's New Year's honours list, appointed CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to television drama; she founded Hartwood Films in the 1980s and is the company, and is executive producer of the BBC series "Sherlock" (which is produced by her daughter Sue Vertue and co-written by her son-in-law Steven Moffat).
21. SHARK DETECTIVE! is an amusing book for children (ages 4-8), with a story and artwork by Jessica Olién (New York: Balzer+Bray, 2015; 32 pp., \$17.99).
22. The latest issue of the August Derleth Society's newsletter offers Bob Byrne's interview ("A Preponderance of Pons"); Bob presides over a web-site devoted to Solar Pons, Derleth's delightful homage to Sherlock Holmes. The August Derleth Society's web-site is at <www.derleth.org>; membership in the society costs \$25.00 a year and includes four issues of its newsletter. Bob Byrne's interesting web-site's at <www.solarpons.com>.
23. Oscar Ross has reported The Telegraph Casino <www.tinyurl.com/zuteqd3>, a web-site maintained by the newspaper that offers punters a chance to play various games, one of them "Sherlock Holmes: The Hunt for Blackwood"; it's pay to play, and you will need to use a program such as Hola! to spoof the web-site into thinking you're in the U.K.
24. Howard Ostrom has compiled a data-base with more than a thousand actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes, most of them with photographs; you can access it at the "No Place Like Holmes" web-site maintained by Ross K. Foad at <www.nplh.co.uk>; use the "More" button to get to The Diogenes Club Library (where you'll find the data-base and additional essays by Howard, as well as Diogenes Documentaries based on his research).

25. Jan 16 #4 Further to the report (Oct 15 #2) on the Criterion Restaurant, which after 140 years in business encountered difficulties when the landlord increased the rent, and closed, it's nice news indeed the restaurant is open again under a new name: The Savini London, according to its web-site <www.savinilondon.co.uk> open every day but with little other information. The Criterion's Long Bar was (as noted in A STUDY IN SCARLET) where Watson and Stamford had their historic meeting (and it's even nicer news the plaque honoring that meeting is still in place on the wall of the restaurant).
26. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have a new (and interesting) web-site <www.ash-nyc.com>, thanks to web-mistress Monica Schmidt. You'll find history, scholarship, and news from a society that's now approaching its 50th anniversary.
27. Alexander Orlov has noted Ankur Agarwal's imaginative Sherlock Holmes sand animation art in a video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hrvlpdx>.
28. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, on Jan. 15 <www.rivermuseum.com>. More information on the exhibit is available at the Wonderworks web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24b4fyy>.
29. Antonio Iriarte reports SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY, a series of graphic novels published (in French) by Editions Soleil; there's a web-site, with attractive art-work, at <www.tinyurl.com/jx8hxx6>. The publisher offers a wide range of Sherlockian graphic novels at <www.tinyurl.com/pdne29f>.
30. The world of energetic Sherlockians includes both the young and the not-so-young: Soren Eversoll became a member of The Norwegian Explorers at the age of seven, and now, twice as old, he and his recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street have been featured in an interesting story in the St. Paul Pioneer Press <www.tinyurl.com/on7n9c3>.
31. Nando Gazzolo died on Nov. 16. He had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, and television in Italy, and dubbed the voices of many American and English actors; he appeared as Sherlock Holmes on Italian television in "La valle della paura" and "L'ultimo dei Baskerville" (1968); both programs are available for viewing at YouTube.
32. "Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited" is the theme of The Reichenbach Irregulars' next conference in Switzerland, in September 2017; more information is available at their web-site <www.221b.ch>. Their previous conference ("Alpine Adventures: Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland" in 2014) was delightful <www.tinyurl.com/lzvxxqk>.
33. Hollywood actress Cate Blanchett has purchased Conan Doyle's former home in Crowborough, according to some press accounts, but in fact she has bought Highwell House, which was listed at £3,250,000 <www.tinyurl.com/hjed9rz>; it's rather more grand than Conan Doyle's former home Windlesham, which has been converted to offer residential care and is now called Windlesham Manor <www.tinyurl.com/zzykthe>.

34. Jan 16 #5 An interesting web-site <www.merrisonholmes.com> celebrates the BBC's being the first production company in the world to dramatize all 60 of the Sherlock Holmes stories with the same actors (Clive Merrison and Michael Williams); there are many links to follow, including (at Trivia) podcast interviews with Bert Coules at "Litopia" and at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere". Bert maintains the web-site and updates it from time to time.
35. The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities in Cape May, N.J., will hold its Sherlock Holmes Weekends on Mar. 18-20 and Nov. 4-6, featuring a new three-day mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Melpomene's Mask"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/h2bc4j4>.
36. Bubble and Geek <www.bubble-and-geek.com> offers geek-themed fragrances and other scented products, and one of the geek themes is Sherlock Holmes; you can purchase 221B Baker Street ("a smart, sexy, and sophisticated fragrance that combines smoky, woody cedar notes with suede, brightened with notes of citrus and mint") roll-ons, soy wax melts, and soy candle jars.
37. Patricia Guy's interesting interview with Umberto Eco for Publishers Weekly is available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/p87btj6>; of course she asked him how he came to write his first novel THE NAME OF THE ROSE (he offered five different reasons).
38. Paul Singleton has reported "10 Sherlock Holmes Words Worth Investigating" (an interesting article at the Merriam Webster web-site. "The language in Sherlock Holmes is as intriguing as the stories," they suggest, and one of the words they've chosen is "gooseberry" (not Canonical, but nevertheless Sherlockian); you can find out why at <www.tinyurl.com/jut5yqn>.
39. The article does not mention the phrase "gooseberry lay" (a phrase brought to everyone's attention by Dashiell Hammett); Erle Stanley Gardner told the story of "gooseberry lay" (and "gunsel") in The Atlantic in 1965, and you can read what he had to say at <www.tinyurl.com/jhjsqcc>.
40. Evy Herzog reports (but doesn't recommend) Shopping Sherlock, which seems to be some sort of pyramid scheme; they have a Sherlockian logo at the top of the opening screen and a more artistic Sherlockian logo in their video <www.shoppingsherlock.com>.

41. "The Abominable Bride--We're Not in Baker Street Anymore" is the title of an amusing post by M. M. McMahon at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/h94jjmb>, notable for its link to a YouTube video of "BBC Sherlock--Wizard of Oz Style" (and stay tuned for the next video "Sherlock's The Wizard of Oz").
42. One might safely assume that everyone has watched "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" (except for those who plan never to watch it). If you would like to see just how committed fervent fans are, Nea Dodson recommends the Tumblr web-site multifandom-madnesss <www.tinyurl.com/gpxad4y> for a comprehensive collection of commentary and homages, and a transcript; and "The Annotated Abominable Bride" <www.tinyurl.com/guyajpw> for detailed discussion of the many Canonical allusions in the program.

43. Jan 16 #6 Jack D. Key ("Pritchard") died on Dec. 22. He began his career as a medical librarian in 1965, and went on to serve as director of the Mayo Medical Center Library for more than twenty years, contributing often to both Sherlockian and medical journals. Jack was co-author (with Alvin E. Rodin) of the classic THE MEDICAL CASEBOOK OF DOCTOR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: FROM PRACTITIONER TO SHERLOCK HOLMES AND BEYOND (1984), and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1989.
44. Jennie Paton has reported that the N.Y. Public Library has made more than 187,000 of the public-domain items in its Digital Collections available online <<http://digitalcollections.nypl.org>>; many hits for [sherlock holmes] and for [conan doyle], including the scripts for the plays "The Adventures of Gerard" (1903), "The Sign of the Four" (1903), and "The Fires of Fate" (1909).
45. Alan Rickman died on Jan. 14. He began his acting career on stage in 1974 and went on to star in film and on television; he was best known, perhaps, for his portrayals of the Sheriff of Nottingham in "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" (1991) and Severus Snape in the "Harry Potter" films (2001-2011), and played the title role in a Birmingham Repertory Theatre production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (with David Suchet as Professor Moriarty) in 1976.
46. The Broadway production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the NightTime" (which won five Tony awards last year (Jun 15 #2) is now in its second year at the Ethel Barrymore Theater in New York. It's dramatized from Mark Haddon's novel, which is well worth reading.
47. The Independent reported (Nov. 5) that the BBC has launched a challenge to iTunes by opening its first digital store <www.store.bbc.com> where you can purchase downloads of current and past programs, including "Sherlock" (but so far nothing else Sherlockian or Doylean); the archive will grow as more programs are added. As often is the case with the BBC, one needs to be in the U.K. to purchase downloads.
48. This year's 221B Con in Atlanta on Apr. 1-3 is billed as "a fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes," and it promises to be as spectacular as in years past; details and registration at <www.221bcon.com>.
49. The argument over converting Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (Aug 15 #5) seems to be over: a High Court judge has ruled against the challenge by John Michael Gibson, director of the Undershaw Preservation Trust, to the Waverley Council's approval of the DFN foundation plans to convert the house for use as a school. The judge said that the planning committee was "amply justified in proceeding on the basis that single residential use was not a viable option however optimum it might be in theory."
50. Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactick Sherlock Holmes"; the January edition has now with 106 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and with bibliographic details for more than 6,700 entries; a thumb drive costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere) from Don (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028).

51. Jan 16 #7 If you've not bought your Blu-ray/DVD set of William Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), it's still available from Flicker Alley; their web-site also has an interesting essay ("Move Over, Irene Adler: Meet the Only Sherlock Love Interest Arthur Conan Doyle Approved") that includes Gillette's explanation of why he introduced romance into the play, along with additional comments in a letter he wrote to Vincent Starrett. There's also an offer of a limited-edition T-shirt with Wayne Shellabarger's cover artwork (\$19.99).
52. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards. Among them: Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (Oct 15 #5) (best biographical/critical); winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 28.
53. William Deason painted delightful cover art for paperback editions of the Canon published Dell and Berkley, and Evy Herzog has noted that five of the paintings can be seen at <www.williamdeason.com>; the web-site also shows some of his cover art for Agatha Christie paperbacks, and there are more of them at <www.raggedclaws.com/category/william-teason>.
54. The fourth issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published this month, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with articles that include Kate Donley's "Hounding the Paratexts of the Game" (she notes that "the packaging and repackaging of the Sherlock Holmes stories affects the reading experience"), Tyke and Teddie Niver's report on "Giggles and Guffaws from Gillette Castle", Donald Pollock's discussion of "The Conan Doyle Prize" established at the University of Edinburgh in 1902, and much more. The issue costs \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).
55. John Linsenmeyer reports the "oldest footage of London ever" at YouTube: an 11-minute video <www.tinyurl.com/mv2989t> of movies made between 1890 and 1920, showing what London looked like in those days, often paired with film showing the same locations now; the video also has the oldest know recording of Big Ben, made in 1890.
56. Joseph Bell's copy of THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLESTAR AND OTHER TALES (a third edition published in 1892), inscribed by Conan Doyle to Bell, goes to auction on Feb. 5, estimated at £2,000-£3,000 <www.lawrences.co.uk>.
57. The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2015" has the theme "Histories and Futures Deduced", with contributions ranging from Ruth Berman's "Building Oldacre's Secret Rooms" to Peter H. Jacoby's "Some Oddities in the CV of Colonel Sebastian Moran"; the 54-page booklet, edited by Timothy Reich and Ray Reithmeier, can be ordered from Timothy Reich (6809 Pillsbury Avenue, Richfield, MN 55423, and the cost is \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).
58. Glittering Gold Guineas from the Fourth Garrideb is a 52-page anthology edited edited by Greg Ruby, with material ranging from an article by Jay Finley Christ that was first published in 1951 to a new exploration of "Where Would Dr. Lysander Starr Have Done His Banking?"; \$13.00 postpaid or \$10.00 for a PDF download, with details at <www.tinyurl.com/hho2o8p>.

59. Jan 16 #8 The television series "Houdini and Doyle" (Jun 15 #5) now has a one-minute trailer <www.tinyurl.com/jb3rr86>, Stephen Mangan is Conan Doyle, Michael Weston is Houdini and David Shore (creator of "House") is executive producer. Tune in this spring on Fox in the U.S., ITV Encore in the U.K., and Global in Canada.
60. The British weekly magazine Look and Learn offered famous works of literature as serial graphic novels, with titles that included SIR NIGEL (1966-1967), THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1967-1968), THE SIGN OF FOUR (1968), and THE LOST WORLD (1972-1973), and the four stories have been

- collected in one volume of ILLUSTRATED BRITISH CLASSICS, with an introduction by Norman Wright that includes discussion of the artists; available for £15.99 from The Book Palace <www.tinyurl.com/z6gkv5l>. RODNEY STONE also appeared in the magazine in 1966, but isn't in this collection.
61. And some theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be performed as a reading at the Caltech Athenaeum in Pasadena, Calif., on Feb. 2 <www.tinyurl.com/jubl5cj>.
 62. The Village Players will be performing Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the James McCabe Theater in Valrico, Fla., through Feb. 6 <www.thevillageplayersvalrico.com>.
 63. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is being performed at the Rogers City Community Theater in Rogers City, Mich., through Feb. 7 <www.rogerscitytheater.com>; also at the Onstage Theatre in Makati City in the Philippines through Feb. 7 <www.repertoryphilippines.ph>. And it's scheduled at the Fort Smith Little Theatre in Fort Smith, Ark., Nov. 10-19 <www.fslt.org>.
 64. C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes: Assassins at Sea" will be presented by the Theatre Company of Lafayette in Lafayette, Colo., from Mar. 4 to Mar. 26 <www.ctlstage.org>.
 65. Gayle Stahlhuth's radio-theater dramatization "Sherlock Holmes: Adventure of the Red-Headed League" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 18-19 and Nov. 4-5 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
 66. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) is scheduled by the Sacramento Theatre Company at the Main Stage in Sacramento, Calif., Apr. 20-May 15, 2016 <www.sactheatre.org>.
 67. The Seattle Repertory Theatre will present "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" (a new play by R. Hamilton Wright) at the Bagley Wright theatre in Seattle, Apr. 22-May 22, 2016 <www.seattlerep.org>.
 68. Mike Druce's "Sherlock Holmes and the Portal of Time" will be performed at the Huntington Beach Playhouse in Huntington Beach, Calif., Apr. 29-May 21 <www.hbplayhouse.com>.
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69. Feb 16 #1 The Proceedings of the "Lippincott's Legacy" conference are now available (the conference was held at the University of Nebraska at Omaha on May 29-30 last year to honor the 125th anniversary of the publication of "The Sign of the Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray"). The Proceedings are a 160-page booklet in the style and format of the original Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, and cost \$10.00 postpaid <www.lippincottslegacy.org>, and it includes seven papers about Sherlock Holmes. It's nicely done, and you need to act quickly if you want one of the few remaining copies.
 70. The Baker Street Irregulars have organized conferences in the Vermessa Valley (2004), the Country of the Saints (2008), and the University of California in Los Angeles (2012); the next event will be a weekend conference at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York, Sept. 9-11, 2016.
 71. Terry Hunt reports an attractive necktie with a pattern displaying one of Frederic Dorr Steele's artistic portrayals of Sherlock Holmes, advertised by Frederick Thomas of London (£9.99) <www.tinyurl.com/zrnv8oz>. There are two other less-artistic Sherlock Holmes designs available as well; search for [sherlock] at their web-site.
 72. Reeder Brand Management <www.reederbrandmanagement.com> is a "boutique licensing and representation agency" that says at its web-site that "we directly represent the commercial licensing interests of consumer brands and iconic personalities" such as Evil Knievel, Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Chris Farley, Bo Derek, Orson Welles, and "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and all literary copyrights (Sherlock Holmes, Watson, Professor Challenger, et al)." They explain that "We've introduced these personalities as commercially viable entities for licensing and advertising uses while maintaining the essential integrity that made them cultural icons."
 73. Roger Johnson reports that The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street is now open for business again, after being closed for three weeks for refurbishment and essential structural work, and that visitors can again see the sitting-room at 221B. See the earlier report (Oct 15 #3) for the history of the pub and the sitting-room display.
 74. Frank Finlay died on Jan. 30. He began his acting career on stage in 1951 and went on to many performances on stage, screen, radio, and television. He played Inspector Lestrade twice, in the films "A Study in Terror" (1965) and "Murder by Decree" (1979), and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle twice, on BBC Radio 4 in "The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes" (1980) and on television in BBC-2's "Encounters: The Other Side" (1992); his other roles included Professor Coram on television in Granada's "The Golden Pince-Nez" (1994), Manfred on film in "The Deadly Bees" (1967) and Police Captain Davies in the film "The Molly Maguires" (1970).
 75. Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, including: Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES (for best historical novel), and Zach Dundas' THE GREAT DETECTIVE, Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER, and Kate White's THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA COOKBOOK (best non-fiction) Winners will be announced at Malice's banquet in Bethesda on Apr. 30.
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76. Feb 16 #2 "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" attracted a huge audience in the U.K.: Radio Times reported (Jan. 10) that the program had a consolidated total of 11.6 million viewers and an audience share of 40.2% (the percentage of the people watching television who watched the program). The U.S. has about five times as many people as the U.K., but the ratings here were much lower because PBS-TV is a niche channel that has far fewer viewers than the major channels.
 77. "'Detective Pikachu' Is Pokémon's New Game/Fever Dream" read the headline on a story in Forbes <www.tinyurl.com/zcrwsze>, and there's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/zydskod>, kindly reported by Howard Ostrom. Detective Pikachu is seen in Sherlockian costume; so far the game's available only in Japanese, but of course there are hopes for a version in English.
 78. CBS-TV is juggling its schedule: "Elementary" moves to 10:00 pm on Sundays on Mar. 20, and the new series "Rush Hour" will take the 10:00 pm slot on Thursdays. Ratings for "Elementary" are declining, triggering rumors that the current fourth season may be the last. If that turns out to be true, the series will end with a total of 96 episodes, and Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu will have been seen as Holmes and Watson for more hours in more episodes than any pair of actors except Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.
 79. Grace Aidinantz has died. According to Linda Riley, her mother died of a broken heart after being devastated by a family dispute over the Sherlock Holmes Museum (Oct 15 #1); Riley's brother John Aidinantz has been accused of robbing other family members of their share in the profits of the Museum, which has brought in £20 million since it opened in 1990.
 80. The Sweet Geek Paper Company offers Lesley Jones' amusing SHERLOCK COLORING BOOK: 12 PAGES OF SOCIOPATHIC COLORING FUN (\$6.00), plus other imaginative items (both Sherlockian and otherwise) <www.sweetgeek.etsy.com>.
 81. "I think my favorite books were LIFE OF THE MISSISSIPPI by Mark Twain, THE WHITE COMPANY by Conan Doyle (also SIR NIGEL by the same author)," Charles Addams wrote in 1967 to Evelyn B. Byrne, "and some interest still remains in the form of a small armor collection. And TREASURE ISLAND with the wonderful Wyeth illustrations and of course the Sherlock Holmes books." The macabre cartoonist's letter wasn't included in ATTACKS OF TASTE (1971), edited by Byrne and Otto M. Penzler, but it went to auction on Jan. 28 at University Archives (estimated at \$200-\$300) and sold for \$575.

82. Agatha Christie's letter to Byrne also mentioned the Sherlock Holmes stories; it went to auction last year (May 15 #2), estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000, and was bought for \$2,250.
83. A copy of the Al Hirschfeld's limited-edition color lithograph "The Game's Afoot" (showing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson) will be at auction at the Butterscotch Auction Gallery on Mar. 13, estimated at \$500-\$700 <www.butterscotchauction.com>; the lithograph's also still available for \$1,800 (along with many other originals and prints) from the Margo Feiden Galleries <www.alhirschfeld.com>.

84. Feb 16 #3 Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, return in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's THE PLAGUE OF THIEVES AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2016; 252 pp., \$25.99), the fourth in their entertaining series; in this book Sabina and John have separate mysteries to solve, and Sabina is hired to find the man who continues to claim he's Sherlock Holmes and persuade him that he isn't (she's only partly successful).
85. NERVE AND KNOWLEDGE: DOCTORS, MEDICINE AND THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON is aptly titled and subtitled; edited by Robert S. Katz and Andrew L. Solberg, it's an imaginative anthology of Canonical and medical scholarship, focusing on the stories but also including the best of the actors who have played Watson on screen and television (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2015; 222 pp., \$39.95) <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
86. Also from the BSI: SPAIN AND SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Maria C. Veiga-Hayzen and Donald J. Hobbs (2015; 195 pp., \$39.95); this is the fifth volume in the BSI's International Series, and it offers an excellent selection of Spanish scholarship and pastiche from The Amateur Mendicant Society of Madrid, available for the first time in English. The society was founded in 1993 by seven Sherlockian who describe themselves as "a social, philanthropic, eminently cultural and occasionally ethical society," and the extracts from their "foundational letter" (and the contributor biographies) are well worth attention.
87. And there's more from the BSI: ART IN THE BLOOD: CARTOONIST & ILLUSTRATOR SCOTT BOND MEETS SHERLOCK HOLMES (2016; 103 pp., \$23.95) is edited by Mark Gagen and offers a wide-ranging selection of Scott's artwork, from 1981 to 2015, from Baker Street Miscellanea, the Baker Street Journal, menus of the BSI annual dinners, and many other sources, some in full color and everything nicely done.
88. BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY: THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND JOHN WATSON is a series of amusing comic strips created by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason; there were 46 installments in 2015, and you can see them at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf>.
89. Callie Meaney's "Literary Candles" are book-inspired hand-poured soy candles, and her "221B Baker Street" candle is scented with black currant tea and leather books and available from Uncommon Goods (\$16.00 for a 12-ounce candle in a glass jar) <www.tinyurl.com/gnlbnk3>; she has other candles inspired by Alice in Wonderland, Jane Eyre, and Pride & Prejudice.
90. A discovery in the archives of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh: class rolls that show that Conan Doyle attended classes, demonstrations, and excursions in 1877, studying medical botany and vegetable histology while he was at Edinburgh University Medical School <www.tinyurl.com/jv444up>.
91. Phillip Bergem has updated his two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean films and television programs, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles; they're available by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>, and at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>.

92. Feb 16 #4 Alexander Orlov and Phil Bergem have reported a new version of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: a fake book for people who want somewhere to hide their liquor. The "booze book" is from Bender Bound <www.tinyurl.com/q8swwap> and has attractive cover art as well; the company motto is "hiding booze in books since 2011," and there's a similar volume for admirers of Edgar Allan Poe.
93. Leah Guinn and Jaime N. Mahoney have edited A CURIOUS COLLECTION OF DATES: THROUGH THE YEAR WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2016; 344 pp., \$34.95) <www.gasogenebooks.com>; it's an interesting day book with one or more entries for every day in the year, with entries based on careful research and covering events, people (characters, authors, and actors), cases, and much more, Canonical and otherwise.
94. Also from Gasogene: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, VOLUME 2, JANUARY-JUNE 1893, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström and Matt Laffey (2016; 197 pp., \$28.95); it covers only six months, rather than the first volume's eleven years, demonstrating how much more newsworthy Holmes and Conan Doyle were by 1893, and it's full of reviews, commentary, the occasional pastiche, and amusing examples of how Holmes was even then becoming part of the cultural literacy. Of special interest is the seven-page list of digitized newspapers and magazines (and the archives in which they were found), showing how useful modern technology can be for this sort of research.
95. And again from Gasogene: Christopher Redmond's A QUICK SUCCESSION OF SUBJECTS: LECTURES AND SPEECHES ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (2016; 275 pp., \$19.95) is a collection of almost 40 years of Chris' scholarship, some published for the first time, and the contents are interesting, instructive, philosophical, amusing, and (perhaps most important) well written.
96. Willis H. O'Brien filmed stop-motion dinosaurs for "The Lost World" (1925), but he wasn't the only person working in the field: Ann Marlowe has found film of sculptress Virginia May, who was seen in "Pathé Review: Monsters of the Past" (1923) <www.tinyurl.com/hst7h2h>.
97. Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975) is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).
98. Customers of Amazon may be interested in the company's new warning labels, suggested by John Doppler <www.tinyurl.com/zhhbzx4>; some of the new labels might be useful attached to reviews of Sherlockian pastiches.
99. Fans of Rupert Holmes' television series "Remember WENN" on AMC (1996-1998) will recall the episode "Armchair Detectives" (1996), which was creatively Sherlockian; it's now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/h4x3tr5>. Note Prison Warden Otto Pelzler, who was Otto Penzler in the script but not in the broadcast; Rupert Holmes has said he believes the producers changed the name to avoid being sued (the real Otto is delighted when his name appears in other people's works).

100. Feb 16 #5 Further to the item about Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes, candidate for mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. (Dec 15 #2), he represented himself at his trial in Cleveland County District Court on various charges, and was threatened with contempt of court by the judge, who then declared a mistrial because of a mistake by the District Attorney. Holmes is now facing charges in four counties.
101. Raymond Hughes died on Dec. 15. He attended the Liverpool College of Art (with John Lennon as a fellow student), and began a career in costume design in television and films in 1968; one of his films was "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985).
102. The photograph of Dorando Pietri at the end of the marathon at the Olympic Games in London in 1908 is well known, since some people claim (incorrectly) that it shows Conan Doyle helping Pietri across the finish line of the race; Cliff Goldfarb has reported that there's also an interesting 8-

- minute highlights film at British Pathé's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/job7xwo> that includes brief footage of Dorando (what's even more interesting in how informal things were more than a century ago).
103. The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ha8chix>.
 104. Howard Ostrom's "The A-Z of Sherlock Holmes Performers" is now available at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hgfjnsv>, with more than 1,300 performers listed and with more than 2,500 photographs.
 105. Conrad Phillips died on Jan. 13. He began his acting career on screen in 1948, starred as William Tell in a British television series in 1958-1959, and played many other roles, among them Sir Eustace Brackenstall in Granada's "The Abbey Grange" (1986).
 106. The animated movie "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" (Dec 15 #1) still is a work-in-progress, scheduled for release in 2018, but you can watch their brief trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/hgsnsg5>.
 107. Maria Konnikova's THE CONFIDENCE GAME: WHY WE FALL FOR IT...EVERY TIME (New York: Viking, 2016; 340 pp., \$28.00) is the second book from the author of the well-received MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jan 13 #4) and it's an instructive exploration of the reasons why con men and women are so successful: the "why" is more important than the "how" (and she explains both aspects of what she calls "the (real) oldest profession." The book is not Sherlockian (except for the story about how the mother of someone whose name will be familiar to readers of this newsletter was taken in by a woman who made a modest living as a professional imposter). The author's interesting web-site's at <www.mariakonnikova.com>.
 108. Mattias Boström reports a previously-unpublished photograph of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, driving his 20-horsepower Dietrich-Lorraine during an Anglo-German motor race (the Prince Henry Tour) on July 5, 1911. You can view it at the Facebook page of Skånelaholms Slott <www.tinyurl.com/j2jrhd>.
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109. Feb 16 #6 Charlie Cook has noted in The Sound of the Baskervilles' newsletter Ineffable Twaddle two of the late Henry W. Gould's mathematical papers ("The Case of the Strange Binomial Identities of Professor Moriarty" and "The Design of the Four Binomial Identities: Moriarty Intervenes") the Fibonacci Quarterly are now available on-line, thanks to the modern wonders of digitization, at <www.tinyurl.com/hjn5qtu>, in issues 10(4), 10(6), and 12(4).
 110. Alexander Orlov has noted a report in the Guardian (Feb. 13) headlined "From Battleship Potemkin to Baker Street: Sightseeing with Sergei Eisenstein" about Eisenstein's six-week visit to Britain in 1929, and an exhibition of his work at the Gallery for Russian Arts and Design in London <www.tinyurl.com/z2yl8el>. The exhibition runs through Apr. 30, and the article has an illustration, in full color, of one of Eisenstein's costume designs (from the Bakhrushin Theatre Museum) for a 1922 play that would have pitted Holmes against Nick Carter during the early years of Soviet experimental theater. The article also reports that Eisenstein's interest in Holmes continued: in 1934 he ordered a copy of Vincent Starrett's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES from a London bookshop.
 111. Tim Symonds, who has written four pastiches available from MX Publishing, wonders which cap or tunic badge Watson would have been wearing at the fatal battle of Maiwand: the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers' "quo fata vocant" badge, some other badge, or no badge at all? And Watson was a surgeon in the Army Medical Department (later the RAMC), would he have worn the insignia of the AMD? Does anyone recall this being discussed in print? Or have any suggestions? Tim is at <tim.symonds@shevolution.com>.
 112. The Scarborough Book Festival ("Books by the Beach") will feature two presentations of David Stuart Davies' "The Game's Afoot: Encounter with Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" on Apr. 13 and 17 in Scarborough (North Yorkshire) <www.booksbythebeach.co.uk>.
 113. Harper Lee died on Feb. 19. Her novel TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (1960) quickly became a classic, and a highly regarded film starring Gregory Peck (1962); She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from George W. Bush, and the National Medal of Arts from Barack Obama. One of her childhood friends was Truman Capote: "Both were oddballs who took refuge in detective novels, and they quickly bonded over their mutual love of Sherlock Holmes and the Rover Boys," according to a story in the N.Y. Times last year about Greg Neri's novel TRU AND NELLE (due from HMH Books for Young Readers in March).
 114. Iconic statues in London, including Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street, were given a makeover to celebrate London Fashion Week this month. You can see Holmes and others decorated with SensatioNail Polish to Gel Transformer in the Get West London gallery at <www.tinyurl.com/znzlccd>.
 115. Get West London also has reported <www.tinyurl.com/jjgbgoc> that the Baker Street "Wonderpass" (Nov 15 #1) is now open; there's a photo gallery of the new pedestrian underpass, with no views of anything Sherlockian. Nicholas Lezard notes in the New Statesman <www.tinyurl.com/jg5hnjz>, however, that there is a diorama honoring Sherlock Holmes.
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116. Feb 16 #7 "Missing Movie: A Case for Sherlock Holmes" was a one-hour program broadcast by BBC Radio 2 in 1994, with Betty Marsden narrating the story behind the missing footage from "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and with interviews with many of the people who worked on the film. The audio is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hk5wdq4> (spotted and kindly reported by Jennie Paton).
 117. THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES, edited by David Marcum (London: MX Publishing, 2015), is an anthology of straight-forward pastiches, carefully selected from what Marcum calls the "Great Watsonian Oversoul." Marcum believes that "there never can be enough good Holmes stories, relating the activities of the true, correct, and traditional Holmes," and he offers more than sixty stories, almost all previously unpublished, by authors who are old hands at writing pastiches or newcomers to the genre. The stories (and occasional poems and scripts) are nicely done indeed, and the collection consists of three volumes (439/416/418 pp., \$44.95 each. Recommended. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <mxpublishing.co.uk>.
 118. The authors have donated their royalties to the preservation of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, which is being converted by the DFN Foundation into a school <www.steppingstone.org.uk>, and the success of the anthology and triggered work on three more volumes <www.tinyurl.com/goj4jap>.
 119. Also from MX: Dan Andriacco's BOOKMARKED FOR MURDER (MX Publishing, 2015; 243 pp., \$16.95) is the latest in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, now back in Erin, Ohio, and presented with various mysteries, one of them the murder of the owner of the only used-book store in town (he has been clubbed with a replica of the Maltese Falcon); it is a lively story, and the author presides over an entertaining (and often Sherlockian) blog <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com> that's well worth a visit.
 120. More from MX: Luke Benjamin Kuhns' THE SCARLET THREAD OF MURDER (2015; 255 pp., \$16.95) offers three pastiches, the longest involving Sherlock Holmes (and Watson), Martin Hewitt (and Brett), and (the real) Detective Inspector Edmund Reid; the others bring Holmes and Watson and Irene Adler to America, and (briefly) Holmes and Watson into the world of ballet in London.

121. Umberto Eco died on Feb. 19. An esteemed semiotician, cultural critic, and author, he became world-famous at the age of 48 when his first novel became a sensational best-seller: *THE NAME OF THE ROSE* (1980) featured William of Baskerville, a Franciscan monk who arrived at an abbey in Italy in 1327 and found he needed to solve a series of murders, succeeding by using methods that were thoroughly Sherlockian. The novel was made into a movie (1986) starring Sean Connery and Christian Slater; the film has scenes not found in the novel, which makes it easy to detect whether Sherlockians who claim to have read the novel actually are remembering the movie. Patricia Guy's recent interesting interview with Umberto Eco for *Publishers Weekly* can be read on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/p87btj6>.
122. In Eco's obituary in the *Washington Post* (Feb. 21), Matt Schudel noted that Eco named many of his characters after type fonts such as Baskerville, Garamond, Palatino, and Bodoni. And that he had a personal library of 50,000 books and near-total recall of their contents.

123. Feb 16 #8 The television series "Houdini and Doyle" (Jan 16 #8) will begin on Fox in the U.S. and on Global in Canada on May 2; the series features Stephen Mangan (Conan Doyle) and Michael Weston (Houdini), with David Shore (creator of "House") as executive producer. The ten-part mini-documentary digital series "Houdini and Doyle: World of Wonders" will start on <www.globalitv.com> and Global Go on Apr. 11; if you use a program such as Hola! you can spoof the Canadian web-site into thinking you're in Canada.
124. Norman Hudis died on Feb. 8. He had a long career writing screenplays for films and television, first in Britain and then in the United States. Best known for writing the first six "Carry On..." comedy films in the 1950s and 1960s, he fantasized about writing one more in the series, according to his obituary in the *Daily Telegraph* (Feb. 12). "Carry On Shylock Holmes" would have featured a Jewish Holmes and Watson and ended with a line of dialogue: "Elementary--you schmuck."
125. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will open at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton, Mar. 25, and will run through Sept. 5; the web-site is at <www.telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca>. The exhibition then moves to the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016, and on to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney Australia, opening on May 6, 2017.
126. Bill Peschel's anthology *SHERLOCK HOLMES EDWARDIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1905-1909* (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2015; 388 pp., \$15.99) is the latest in his 223B Casebook Series, offering the results of his continuing wideranging search through newspapers, magazines, and books, nnotated by the editor, who also includes year-by-year commentary on Conan Doyle's life and career. Visit <www.peschelpress.com> for more information on Bill's press and books.
127. Theatrics: Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is running at the MADS Little Theatre in Macclesfield, Cheshire, through Mar. 5 <www.madstheatre.org>.
128. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (presented by Lincoln Northeast Drama) will be performed at the Northeast Drama Center in Lincoln, Neb., Mar. 1-4 <www.lps.org/post/detail.cfm?id=10701>.
129. Thomas R. Gordon's new play "Arsène Lupin vs Sherlock Holmes" will be presented by the Onomatopoeia Theatre Company at the Gene Frankel Theatre in New York, Apr. 22-May 14 <www.theonomatopoeiatheatrecompany.com>.
130. I've long described this newsletter as six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean, and anyone who wants to do a word-search on a large (more than 13MB) file of all of the text since March 1985 can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who compiled the file, and will update it, and has kindly made it available for download from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.dfw.sherlock.org/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermaceti-press>.

131. Mar 16 #1: "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of the Baker Street Irregulars excursion this year to the Chautauqua Institution in southwestern New York state, Sept. 9-12, and the festivities will include meals, tours, entertainment, more than 20 speakers and panelists, and screening of three of Eille Norwood's silent films, shown in the U.S. for the first time. Details on the event (and a registration form) will be available on and after Apr. 3 at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, and as with all of the BSI's excursions, everyone is welcome to share the fun.
132. Major news from the manuscript market: the auction at Bonhams in New York on Apr. 11 will include a single page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (estimated at \$100,000-\$150,000), and the manuscripts of "The Greek Interpreter" (\$380,000-\$420,000), "The Problem of Thor's Bridge" [that is the title of the manuscript] (\$250,000-\$350,000), "Rodney Stone" (\$80,000-\$120,000), and "The Prisoner's Defence" (\$20,000-\$30,000). Also Christopher Morley's "Where the Blue Begins" (\$12,000-\$18,000). Detailed descriptions of the Conan Doyle items are available at Randall Stock's "The Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zeetnbx>.
133. More major news from the manuscript market: five Brigadier Gerard stories, not widely known to have survived, are advertised in the current catalog of the New York dealer James S. Jaffe for \$115,000. Randall Stock's detailed descriptions of these manuscripts are at <www.tinyurl.com/h8qzpgv>.
134. And there's some non-manuscript Sherlockian auction news: Heritage Auctions <www.tinyurl.com/z94vbkg>; search for [conan doyle] to find some nice material in an on-line auction closing on Apr. 6, including a run of all of the Sherlock Holmes stories in single issues of *The Strand Magazine*, first book editions of *A STUDY IN SCARLET* (both first and second printings), "The Lost World" in single issues of *The Strand Magazine*, and much more.
135. They're off and running at Pimlico Race Course in Maryland, where Greg Ruby has revived *The Silver Blaze* (Southern Division), set for May 14; you can read all about it at <www.sherlockinmaryland.com/silver-blaze>.
136. Laurie R. King's *THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL* (New York: Bantam Books, 2016; 384 pp., \$28.00) offers an attention-grabbing ending to the first chapter, and a detailed and provocative look at the life of Mrs. Hudson; it's nicely done indeed, and a grand addition to the Mary Russell series. Laurie has an interesting web-site at <www.laurierking.com>; click on "Events" to see where she'll be appearing, and on "Blogs" to read Laurie's Mutterings and Mary Russell's Blog.
137. Laurie's *THE MARRIAGE OF MARY RUSSELL* is a new short story, available (so far) only as an e-book; she has posted some essays about the story at her web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jbhak4s>.
138. Frogwares calls "Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Daughter" the most ambitious game they have worked on yet in their continuing series of game engineered for Playstation 4, Xbox One, and PC; it will be released on May 27, and you can see their "cinematic reveal trailer" at <www.tinyurl.com/jrvo3lg>.

139. Mar 16 #2 Theresa Thomalen died on Mar. 2. "It ain't easy," Terry once wrote. "I am married to a lunatic, but he's a nice guy. He was always a nice guy, but he wasn't always a lunatic." The nice guy was Bob Thomalen, and Terry joined him in *The Three Garridebs* and in presiding over a long series of delightful Autumns in Baker Street. She was awarded *The Baker Street Irregulars'* Queen Victoria Medal in 1992, and then was toasted by the BSI as *The Woman* in 1994.
140. Good news of fans of "Elementary": CBS has renewed the series for a fifth season, extending Johnny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu's record for the most performances of any pair of actors at Holmes and Watson in every medium other than radio (where Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce reign supreme).

141. It's called "The Great Detective" (but the label on the base reads "Sherlock Holmes"): a new statue from Creations & Collections Ltd. <www.creationsandcollections.com> is 10½" high in cold cast bronze with a blue wash over the coat (\$74.95), and is advertised as "sure to catch the attention of any detective and mystery enthusiast out there."
142. Magda Jozsa is an Australian author who has written in many genres. RETURN TO THE WILD FRONTIER (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2013; 332 pp., \$13.99) is a sequel to her SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE WILD FRONTIER (Apr 05 #5), and brings Holmes and Watson back to the Wild West, where they encounter old acquaintances and survive more adventures with desperados and other villains. Her THE PRIVATE DIARIES OF DR. WATSON (2013; 414 pp., \$14.99) is a collection of stories that offer a more personal view of Watson, and of Holmes and his family, and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FEMME FATALES (2014; 323 pp., \$12.73) is the second installment of stories in the same vein. INTRODUCING NEPTUNE KING (2002; 502 pp., \$14.99) is the first of a series of 24 collections of short stories, set in England in the 1960s, featuring a young Oxford professor-turned-detective who is an admirer of Sherlock Holmes. Her titles also are available as e-books, and her web-site is at <www.read4life.com>.
143. Bjarne Nielsen ("The Veiled Lodger") died on Mar. 19. Bjarne was a collector, bibliographer, translator, and publisher; he first contributed to the Sherlockian literature (in Danish) in 1964, presided over Antiquariat Pinkerton (his bookshop and private press), founded a small society called The Two Thurstons and The Great Greenland Expedition Society, and was president of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark from 1988 to 2006. He was awarded his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.
144. Another "Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention" is scheduled in London on Sept. 23-26 <www.sherlocked.com>; it's organized in association with Hartswood Films (the production company for "Sherlock"), and they're looking venues and dates for a "Sherlocked USA" event.
145. THE ADVENTURE OF THE OLD CAMPAIGNERS, by James Wearne (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2011; 235 pp., \$11.85) has Watson (and Holmes) come to the aid of Watson's old colleague Col. Pickering, Prof. Henry Higgins, and Higgins' wife (the former Eliza Doolittle); Watson winds up visiting a bordello in London and a Japanese castle in West Africa in an attempt to rescue one of Eliza's friends who seems to have been kidnapped by white slavers.

146. Mar 16 #3 Among the "Dating Profiles of the Literary Lovelorn" at the Bas Bleu "Bluestocking Salon" blog <www.tinyurl.com/jzqsufd>, noted by Janice Weiner: "Busy no-nonsense bachelor seeks intelligent verbal sparring partner. Applicants must be thoroughly honest, accepting of my keeping late hours, and willing to dress in disguise on occasion. Tidying and cooking skills a plus. Those in possession of these qualities--and who are not averse to being intimate with a smoker--may request an interview with myself and my colleague and advisor, Dr. Watson, at our rooms at 221B Baker Street, London. I strongly advise against telling even the slightest fib."
147. The television series "Houdini and Doyle" (Feb 16 #8) started on ITV and ITV Encore in Britain this month; according to a story in Radio Times (Mar. 2), Steve Mangan was ordered to grow a Magnum-style moustache for the series, and shaved it off the day shooting ended. But he has signed a five-year option for the series, and may need to grow the moustache again. The series starts on Fox on May 2; here's a new trailer: <www.tinyurl.com/zj52qv8>.
148. Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers of New Jersey will celebrate their 40th anniversary at a luncheon meeting on July 10; for more information, contact Ron Fish <ronf404@aol.com>.
149. SHERLOCK HOLMES' FIENDISH PUZZLES, by Dr. John Watson [Tim Dedopulos] (London: Carlton Books, 2016; pp., £7.99) is a collection of "riddles, enigmas, and challenges inspired by the world's greatest crime-solver." Also from Carlton: Martin Fido's SHERLOCK: THE FACTS AND FICTION BEHIND THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE (2015; 224 pp., £16.99) is a revised and expanded second edition of his THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Mar 99 #1), updated to include modern films and television, and with many colorful illustrations. And THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CASE NOTES, by Dr. John Watson [Guy Adams] (2015; 63 pp., £19.99), is a reprint of the earlier edition (Nov 09 #6); an imaginative boxed scrapbook of evidence, some of it in evidence bags, for six of the Canonical tales.
150. Fandom Post reported on Feb. 20 that Titan Comics plans to publish an English version of the Japanese "Sherlock: A Study in Pink" manga in June, in print and digital formats.
151. "Sherlock" producer Sue Vertue, at the BBC Worldwide Showcase in Liverpool last month, said "We start shooting in April, finish shooting at the end of July." Mark Gatiss, asked what Benedict Cumberbatch brought to the role at the beginning of the 2010 series, replied "He brought his own trousers."
152. Alexander Orlov notes that Dmitri Varkin has created an interesting metal sculpture he calls "The Lost World"; it's imaginative, and there are images in a slide show at <www.tinyurl.com/gvhrvyq>.
153. "An eight-day train voyage through the Swiss Alps with Ranulph Fiennes" is being promoted by the Daily Telegraph <www.tinyurl.com/hq4axj9>, departing from London on Sept. 8, for only £2,795 per person. The tour includes two nights at the "Englischer Hof" in Meiringen, where author Anthony Horowitz will give a private lecture on Sherlock Holmes.

154. Mar 16 #4 Further to the item about Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes, candidate for mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. (Feb 16 #5), he has now spent more than a hundred days in jail, and has been ordered to undergo a mental evaluation or face more time in jail. "I've had mental evaluation," he said, "My wife is my caretaker." Holmes' political campaign made local headlines last year when he promised, if elected mayor, to arrest homosexuals, and then disrupted voting on election day; Holmes got three votes and finished last.
155. In other crime news, from Monticello, Ark., Patrick Sherlock Holmes was arrested for possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia during the Operation Safe Watch" compliance check on registered sex offenders in Monticello.
156. The Beacon Society has presented its 2015 Beacon Award (recognizing educators who introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Michael J. Brady, who developed and used a Sherlock Holmes curriculum at the California Youth Authority and other schools in California and Tennessee; there is more about him, and his work, at <www.beaconsociety.com>.
157. Ryan Britt's LUKE SKYWALKER CAN'T READ, AND OTHER GEEKY TRUTHS (New York: Plume/Penguin Random House, 2015; 208 pp., \$16.00) is a collection of provocative essays about science fiction and fantasy, including "Baker Streets on Infinite Earths: Sherlock Holmes as the Eternal Sci-Fi Superhero". It's a revised and expanded version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Science Fiction of Deduction" published in Clarkesworld (Nov. 2010) and available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2ddvtg>. Britt begins his book with a nice quotation from Isaac Asimov: "Those people who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do."
158. Sorry about that: Henry W. Gould is not "late" (Feb 16 #6): he's alive and well and publishing; his latest book is COMBINATORIAL IDENTITIES FOR STIRLING NUMBERS (2015), and he has an impressive entry at Wikipedia, as well as an interesting page at Facebook <www.facebook.com/henry.gould.16>.

159. Yuichi Hirayama's THE ANNOTATED JELLAND'S VOYAGE (Jan 01 #3) offered a reprint of Arthur Conan Doyle's only story set in Japan, with annotations and an interesting discussion of the historical and literary background of the story; the 20-page pamphlet is now available as a Kindle e-book from Amazon (\$3.00).
160. Alexander Orlov has noted "Charlotte and Frogson" (a new Russian animated series under development by LadyBug Animation Studio); there's a brief clip at <www.filmpro.ru/material/45484>, and a trailer at Ladybug's web-site at rinatgaz.com/charlotte.html>. And "The Case of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j5wmpoe>; this is an interesting 70-minute documentary, narrated by Tim Pigott-Smith and broadcast by the BBC (it includes video from a visit with John Bennett Shaw).
161. A "Jubiläumsfest Sherlock Holmes" will be held in Meiringen on May 27-29 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Sherlock Holmes' fateful encounter with Professor Moriarty, and the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen. Visit <www.tinyurl.com/ztsude9> to find more information on the program (which includes a video contest open to all).

162. Mar 16 #5 "Shisha no teikoku" ["The Empire of Corpses"] is a new Japanese animation (Sep 15 #3), released in Japan in October and due for release in the U.S. in April; Marsha Pollak saw the film at the Cinequest Film Festival in San Jose, and thought the film was very well done. John Watson is recruited by the British government for a covert mission in Afghanistan, where he poses as a newly recruited medic for the British army and learns that humans are being brought back from the dead in the form of Frankenstein's monster."
163. Josh Lanyon is a prolific author of male/male romance fiction, including a "Holmes & Moriarity" series starring mystery author Christopher Holmes and former police officer J.X. Moriarity, and with occasion allusions to Sherlock Holmes; the first two titles in the series are SOMEBODY KILLED HIS EDITOR (Macon: Samhain, 2010; 268 pp., \$15.00) and ALL SHE WROTE (2011; 270 pp., \$15.00). The author's web-site is at <www.joshlanyon.com>.
164. Dan Stashower has noted Jennibick Custom Journals at <www.jenniebick.com>; they produce handsome blank notebooks, among them an attractive series of paperblanks that includes a Sherlock Holmes journal decorated with a passage from a Sherlock Holmes manuscript (\$14.95) <www.tinyurl.com/zmyfj46>.
165. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton <www.telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca> through Sept. 5, and at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 13-Jan. 8. The exhibition then goes overseas, to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Australia, May 6-Oct 8, 2017, and to the Huashan 1914 Creative Park in Taipei, Taiwan, Dec. 1-Mar. 4, 2018.
166. The exhibition "J.M.W. Turner & The Art of Watercolor" (open through Apr. 10) at the Higgins Art Gallery and Museum in Bedford) includes his iconic 1804 painting of the Reichenbach Falls, which is owned by the Museum. The painting has been seen twice in the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, at the end of the second season, and in the recent Christmas special, and was loaned for display at last year's Sherlock Holmes exhibition at the Museum of London; it's on-line in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/hptv8q5>.
167. Greg Ruby has reported readings (audio only) of "The Poetry of Arthur Conan Doyle" at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/zvbohog>; they're nicely done.
168. Earle Wilkinson's THE ADVENTURES OF SWEARLOT HOLMES (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 117 pp., \$9.95) comes with a "Parental Advisory: Explicit Content" on the cover and offers a collection of obscene and profane vignettes inspired by illustrations in The Strand Magazine; the author also writes children's books, and has a web-site at <www.deanwilkinson.net>. Tracy Revels' SHADWWRAITH: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 206 pp., \$14.95) is the third in her series, with Holmes and Watson again in the world of wizards and wizardry, in pursuit of a spell on one of the pages missing from the Devil's Bible, and in a battle with the spirit of "the most evil man who ever lived."
169. Hannah Rogers' A GUIDE TO DEDUCTION (2015; 130 pp., \$9.95) is subtitled as "the ultimate handbook for any aspiring Sherlock Holmes or Doctor Watson" and offers 500 tips on how and what to observe, and what to deduce from the observations, along with some helpful hints from Holmes himself. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

170. Mar 16 #6 Howard Ostrom's data-base of actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes now has more than 1,800 entries, most of them with photographs; you can access it at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.nplh.co.uk>; use the "More" button to go to The Diogenes Club Library (where you'll find the data-base and additional essays by Howard, as well as some Diogenes Documentaries based on Howard's research).
171. Theatrics: The Aquila Theatre's bus-and-truck production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is still touring, and it will be in Brooklyn in April and in Queens in May; details on the New York at <www.aquilatheatre.com>. It's a new dramatization of three Canonical stories by Desiree Sanchez, and it is done with grace and style and humor. Recommended.
172. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at the Gaslight Dinner Theatre in Dickson, Tenn., through Apr. 9; web-site at <www.gaslightdinnertheatre.org>. And it will be performed at the Syracuse Stage in Syracuse, N.Y., May 11 through 29 <www.syracusestage.org> and at the Weatherlane Playhouse in Newark, Ohio, July 14-23; that web-site is at <www.weatherlaneplayhouse.org>.
173. Jerry R. Montoya's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Sutter Street Theatre in Folsom, Calif., Apr. 9-May 8; their web-site's at <www.sutterstreettheatre.com>.
174. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Adventure" has been scheduled at the Pierce College Theatre in Woodland Hills, Calif., from Apr. 22 to May 1 <www.info.piercecollege.edu/theater>, and at the Dutch Country Players Theatre in Telford, Pa., Nov. 4-19 <www.dcptheatre.com>.
175. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at Trinity Fulton Church in Clinton, Ohio, Apr. 29-May 9; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/quyazq8>.
176. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Alta., from May 2 until May 31 <www.vertigotheatre.com>.
177. The Baker Street Players will offer the world premiere of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the American Twins" (a new play by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro) at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., from May 20 to June 11; Baker Street West has a Facebook page, but no web-site.
178. Jessica Wright Buha's "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Portage Park" is scheduled by the Filament Theatre Ensemble in Chicago from May 21 to July 23 <www.filamenttheatre.org>; "Sherlock Holmes on bike or on foot, searching for clues in and around Portage Park."
179. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Creede Repertory Theatre in Creede, Colo., May 27-July 10 <www.creederep.org>.

180. Apr 16 #1 Douglas Wilmer ("The Lyceum Theatre") died on Mar. 31. He made his stage debut in London in 1945, had a long career as an actor, with many Sherlockian credits: he was a splendid Sherlock Holmes in the 1964-1965 BBC television series, played Holmes again in the film "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and read twenty of the stories released by Penguin on audiocassettes in 1998 (many Sherlockians got to meet him when he toured the U.S. promoting the audiocassette sets. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2000, and had a

- cameo as an outraged member of the Diogenes Club, happily wearing his BSI bow tie in an episode ("The Reichenbach Fall") in the BBC "Sherlock" television series. Scott Monty has a nice tribute to Wilmer at <www.tinyurl.com/jy78l23>.
181. "The Sacred Flame Coal Fire" (1943) is an amusing British film found by Alexander Orlov at the British Pathé web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hoyqa4r>, with Holmes and Watson encouraging the Brits to save fuel.
 182. There was one successful bidder at the auction of Conan Doyle manuscripts at Bonhams in New York on Apr. 11 (Mar 16 #1): the manuscript of "The Problem of Thor's Bridge" sold for \$220,000 (or \$269,000 including the buyer's premium). Bidding on the other manuscripts did not reach the reserves, so the manuscripts went unsold. The manuscript of Christopher Morley's "Where the Blue Begins" sold for \$12,000 (or \$15,000 including the buyer's premium). Detailed descriptions of the Conan Doyle items are available at Randall S ock's "The Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zeetnbx>.
 183. The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street have organized their next "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze on Sept. 18 at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J. More information is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net>.
 184. And the 57th annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course in Chicago will be held on Oct. 22. Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net> is in charge of their mailing list.
 185. Ernie Chan's original artwork for the cover of the DC comic book THE JOKER #6 (March/April 1976), from the collection of Jerry Margolin, will be offered by Heritage Auctions at a sale in New York on May 13; the issue featured Denny O'Neil's story "Sherlock Stalks the Joker" (and the cover shows "the Master Sleuth" and "the Clown Prince of Crime"). You can see the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/hx6r9ld>.
 186. Further to an earlier item (Jan 07 #3) about copies of Conan Doyle's books that were brought to the Antarctic (THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, brought by Capt. Robert Falcon Scott, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, brought by Xavier Mertz), the Royal Geographic Society has carefully examined a photograph of Sir Ernest Shackleton's cabin on the Endurance, taken in March 1915, and identified his books: one of them was E. W. Hornung's RAFFLES, dedicated by Hornung to his brother-in-law Conan Doyle. The Endurance became trapped in the ice and eventually sank; all the members of the crew survived, but not the books. You can see the photograph, and a list of all the books, at <www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35633374>.
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187. Apr 16 #2 Anthony Read died on Nov. 21, 2015. He worked as an actor and then as an advertising copywriter, and joined the BBC in 1963; beginning a long career as a scriptwriter and producer, with more than 200 television credits. He worked on Douglas Wilmer's "Sherlock Holmes" series (1965) and "The Baker Street Boys" (1983); he also wrote the script for one of the shows in Erich Schellow's "Sherlock Holmes" television series (1967) and a long series of young-adult THE BAKER STREET BOYS novels.
 188. Sean Wright has noted an early (sort of) Sherlockian calabash in Stan Laurel's "The Sleuth" (1925): Laurel (detective Webster Dingle) is seen with a deerstalker and (twice) with a parody calabash in the film, which is conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/he69cwr>.
 189. The world of comic books sure has changed. Robyn Hood has her own series, published by Zenescope <www.zenescope.com>, with alternate covers for each issue (quite common now); what's new is "exclusive" additional alternate covers "printed on a brilliant piece of metal" in an edition limited at 25 copies; issue 19 (Jan. 2016) costs \$250.00 for cover E (the same artwork, by Elias Chatzoudis, appears on cover D, only \$15.00). Note: only the cover artwork for the issue is Sherlockian.
 190. Joseph Bell's copy of THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLESTAR AND OTHER TALES (a third edition published in 1892), inscribed by Conan Doyle to Bell, went to auction at Laurences Auctioneers on Feb. 5, estimated at £2,000-£3,000, and it sold for £1,800.
 191. "Sherlock Holmes: Celebrating 125 Years of Perfection in Detection" is the title of an evening event honoring the anniversary of the publication of "A Scandal in Bohemia" in The Strand Magazine, at the Mid-Manhattan Branch of the N.Y. Public Library (Fifth Avenue at 40th Street) on June 14, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The event will feature a panel that includes Lyndsay Faye, Otto Penzler, and SJ Rozan, and is open to all at no charge.
 192. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has announced details of its London Mini-Festival Weekend on May 19-22, and the publication (at the end of May) of its facsimile edition of the manuscript of "The Abbey Grange"; more information is available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jxwkq4o>.
 193. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has an exhibition on "The Power of Poison" through July 24 <www.cmnh.org>, organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, with a mini-display exploring the use of poisons in books about Sherlock Holmes and Harry Potter; Dan Stashower reports it's an excellent exhibition, and there's an interesting web-site about it at <www.tinyurl.com/h2nuvwm>.
 194. Does anyone recognize this pastiche? "In a Sherlock Holmes story, a friend of Dr. Watson is due to receive an inheritance on the New Year's Day of the year of his 21st birthday. The law deprives him of the money as he was born on Feb. 29. Holmes eventually helps him to fake his death long enough for his grandson, who is the appropriate age to receive the inheritance, to establish his claim and receive the money himself." From a story in the Lima (OH) News (Feb. 28) on interesting aspects of Leap Day.
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195. Apr 16 #3 Fans of "Elementary" will recall the episode in which a villain used a lap-top computer to commit murder by taking control of the victim's pacemaker. Jennie Paton has noted a report that the Food and Drug Administration has issued draft guidance that directs manufacturers to evaluate their devices to ensure that "security vulnerabilities won't affect clinical performance" <www.tinyurl.com/jmd8ot2>.
 196. Christy Allen reports that The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars has a new web-site <www.scholarexchange.furman.edu/sublibrarians>; the web-site offers interesting information on past meetings and on library collections dedicated to Sherlock Holmes or Arthur Conan Doyle (there are more of them than you might expect).
 197. A "Downton Abbey" crossover with "Sherlock Holmes" (noted by Paul Herbert): Hugh Bonneville (who played Robert Crawley, Earl of Grantham), was known as Richard Bonneville earlier in his career, when he played Victor Savage in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994).
 198. Booktrack's "enhanced" version of "The Speckled Band" (Feb 11 #4) offered sound effects and a soundtrack for reading the story on your a wide variety of digital platforms, and they've now done "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with all 12 stories) (\$1.99) <www.tinyurl.com/zoobsme>. You can sample "A Scandal in Bohemia" at the web-site.
 199. Adrienne Corri died on Mar. 13. She made her film debut in 1949, and went on to many other performances on stage, screen, and television in Britain; including the unfortunate Angela Osborne in John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965).
 200. Lyndsay Faye's JANE STEELE (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2016; 422 pp., \$27.00) is inspired by Charlotte Brontë's JANE EYRE, and far more interesting; it's difficult not to keep reading when a novel starts "Of all my many murders, committed for love and for more better reasons, my first was the most important." Lyndsay says her novel is a romantic satire, and so it is (and it's great fun).

201. Alexander Orlov reports that it's possible to see a display of some of the props used in the Russian Livanov/Solomin television series (1979-1986) at Lenfilm Studios in St. Petersburg <www.tinyurl.com/h3jsffk>.
202. M. J. Carter's *THE INFIDEL STAIN* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2016; 417 pp., \$27.00) is a sequel to her *THE STRANGLER VINE* (Apr 15 #4); it's set in London at the beginning of the 1840s, with Jeremiah Blake having returned from India and working as a private enquiry agent, skilled in observation and deduction, and assisted once again by his friend William Avery. There is a series of brutal murders, a complicated mystery, and a vivid picture of London in the time of Charles Dickens. Carter's interesting web-site is at <www.mj-carter.com>.
203. Kent H. Ross died on Mar. 23. He served as Gasogene of the Confederates of Wisteria Lodge in Atlanta, and then was a member of the Agra Treasurers of Dayton, and in 2005 was the founder and director of the Gathering of Southern Sherlockians in Chattanooga.

204. Apr 16 #4 Further to the item on metal plates apparently created in 1940 by way of celebrating Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: *STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES*, displayed by Javier Doria during the birthday festivities in New York (Oct 14 #2), Greg Ruby has an updated and detailed history of the plates at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/gn5dz4e>.
205. The 2016 issue of *Beaten's Christmas Annual* has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle (it's their 33rd annual issue), offering 65 pages of scholarship, quizzes, pastiches, recipes, reports on the society and its members, and reprint of an amusing item in the Tacoma Daily Register occasioned by Sir Arthur's visit to the Pacific northwest in 1923. The cost of the annual is \$13.00 postpaid (\$20.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles can be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.
206. There are Sherlockian pins and buttons and medals, and a newly-reported patch that represents the BSI, or at least some organization with those initials. Bill Mason would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who can provide any information about this patch: who issued it, where, when, and why; his e-mail address is <www.billelson@aol.com>.
207. Sherlock Seattle has scheduled its first "Watson Washington" convention on Oct. 21-23; they will be celebrating all things Watson, and there's additional information at www.sherlock-seattle.org
208. STX Entertainment has acquired the film rights to David Jafer's *THE WITCH OF LIME STREET: SÉANCE, SEDUCTION, AND HOUDINI IN THE SPIRIT WORLD* (Nov 15 #3); the book is a carefully-researched and detailed history of Mina Crandon, whose performance as the medium Margery involved both Houdini and Conan Doyle.
209. Kate Karlson is disposing of some of her Sherlockian collection, including some books signed or inscribed by their authors, and will be happy to send you her sales list <kkarlson@stny.rr.com>.
210. Further to the report (Feb 16 #1) on the reopening of The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street: its web-site www.sherlockholmes-stjames.co.uk has an interesting photo-gallery (note that the on-tap offerings at the bar include The Sherlock Holmes Ale and Watson's Wallop!
211. Chris Caswell, formerly the proprietor of Sherlocks Home Mystery Bookstore in Long Beach, Calif., and the Baker Street Emporium in Seal Beach, Calif., has a shop at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/kxvzxba>, called aSherlocksHome, where he offers a variety of Sherlockiana, including an empty bottle of the 1995 vintage of Sherlock's Claret; say the secret word [Scuttlebutt] to receive a 10% discount on any of merchandise.
212. The Plymouth Herald reported (Mar. 4) that a blue plaque will be installed at 6 Elliot Terrace on the Hoe, where Conan Doyle lived when he worked with George Turnavine Budd in 1882; Conan Doyle left Plymouth to set up his own practice in Southsea, where he wrote *A STUDY IN SCARLET*.

213. Apr 16 #5 "The Telephone Girl" was a series of two-reel shorts released in 1924 starring Alberta Vaughn (Gladys Murgatroyd); the fourth film in the series was "Sherlock's Home" with Edward Hearne (light heavyweight champion of the world "Hurricane" Sherlock), and Jennie Paton notes that you can see the film at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j24l852>. The film's Sherlockian only for its title and the name of the boxer.
214. Greenpeace activists protesting dangerous air-quality levels in London strapped emergency face masks on the faces of iconic statues in the city on Apr. 18, as part of a campaign calling for a clean-air zone covering a large part of London; the most prominent of the statues was the one of Lord Nelson, on top of the 170-foot-high Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. Other statues included Oliver Cromwell and Winston Churchill outside Parliament, Queen Victoria opposite Buckingham Palace, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes near the Baker Street underground station.
215. Dilys Winn died on Feb. 5. She opened Murder Ink, the world's first bookshop devoted solely to mystery fiction, in New York in 1972; she sold the bookshop to Carol Brener in 1975, and went on to edit *MURDER INK: A MYSTERY LOVER'S COMPANION*, which won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1978. Dilys also edited *MURDERESS INK: THE BETTER HALF OF THE MYSTERY* (1979), and a revised and expanded edition of *MURDER INK* (1984). She appeared on the television show "To Tell the Truth" in 1972, and you can see her segment at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jqj7spy>.
216. Gareth Thomas died on Apr. 13. A British actor, best known for his role as Roj Blake in the television series "Blake's 7" (1978-1981), he also played Joseph Harrison in Granada's "The Naval Treaty" (1984).
217. Moriarty's Irish Pub (Aug 15 #7) is now open in Columbia, S.C. Named after the evil professor, it offers an Irene Adler cocktail: vodka, ripe strawberries, lemon juice, cane sugar, and mint ("like the woman it's named for, it's sweet, beautiful, and more dangerous than you realize").
218. Diane Vallere's *A DISGUISE TO DIE FOR* (New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 2016; 283 pp., \$7.99) is the first in a new series about Margo Tamblin, who runs a family costume shop called Disguise DeLimit; one of her customers rents a Sherlock Holmes costume for a mystery-themed party and is murdered, so Margo needs to come up with a solution to a mystery that has many suspects and possible motives.
219. The Loch Ness Monster has been found! Well, one Loch Ness Monster has been found: a Norwegian company has been using an underwater robot equipped with sonar imaging to explore the loch, and has located the model of Nessie made for the movie "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). The model sank during filming, and BBC News <www.tinyurl.com/zlrkupp> had an interesting report on the discovery. There's an additional Sherlockian connection with the monster: Shirley Dickensheet ("Ivy Douglas" in The Baker Street Irregulars), who was working for the Fireman's Fund when the model sank in 1969, noted that the company paid the claim for the loss (and got some nice publicity); anyone who wants to rescue the monster as a Sherlockian souvenir will need to have a discussion with the insurance company.

220. Apr 16 #6 Another demonstration of T. S. Eliot's enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes: in a letter to Charles Cyrus Hare, thanking him for his praise of *FOUR QUARTETS*, Eliot said that "They give me no less pleasure for being recognized by me as exaggerated, though, like Sherlock Holmes, I am ready to praise myself when I deserve it." The letter will be offered at Leslie Hindman Auctioneers in Chicago on May 5 <www.tinyurl.com/gtsy4b4>, estimated at \$800-\$1,200. So: where in the Canon is Sherlock Holmes ready to praise himself when he deserved it?
221. UIG Entertainment has released "Doctor Watson: The Riddle of the Catacombs" (a new "3D Hidden Object" game for your computer) (\$7.99); it's previewed at <www.steampowered.com/app/446440>.

222. "Adapting Sherlock Holmes" is a free virtual issue of the Oxford University Press' academic journal *Adaptation* <www.tinyurl.com/ja39svp>, offering interesting articles by Benjamin Poore, Ashley D. Polasek, Stephen Greer, and Richard Hewett.
 223. Anglotopia ("the web-site for Anglophiles") has just the thing for tourists in Britain: A Guide to "Sherlock" Filming Locations Across the UK., posted on Feb. 2 by John Rabon <www.tinyurl.com/j73lqct>.
 224. Flicker Alley (the distributor for Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes") calls attention to a new development in preserving films for posterity: Technicolor (the company is celebrating its 100th anniversary) has preserved the classic George Méliès film "A Trip to the Moon" (1902) using a DNA process that may some day replace DVDs for archival storage. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/z8rg9wf>.
 225. Flicker Alley also offers a 93-minute version of "The Lost World" (1925) on DVD <www.tinyurl.com/h7zbxhn>; 93 minutes and newly restored, which is as good as it gets until a complete archival copy of the film turns up.
 226. Bill Dunning has noted "Dinosaur Comics" (described at Wikipedia as a "constrained webcomic") by Ryan North; he claims that he can't draw, and happily uses the same artwork for each strip but with different dialogue. North has won several awards for his work, and his web-site <www.qwantz.com> has a search engine that allows one to search for [sherlock holmes] and find a long list of Sherlockian strips; a search for [moriarty] will turn up one strip that doesn't mention Sherlock Holmes.
 227. SecretBuilders, a company that makes mobile and on-line educational games for children, offers six hidden-object games based on the Canon, available without charge at <www.secretbuilders.com/home.html>.
 228. AN ISTANBUL ANTHOLOGY, edited by Kaya Genç (American University in Cairo, 2015; 147 pp., \$18.95), is part of the publisher's series of "Travel Writing through the Centuries" and offers an interesting look at an exotic city through the eyes of writers such as Giacomo Canova, Ernest Hemingway, Herman Melville, Mark Twain, and Arthur Conan Doyle (who is represented by two excerpts from his autobiography MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES); Conan Doyle and his wife visited the city on their honeymoon, in 1907, when the Sultan Abdul Hamid sent a message saying that he had read Conan Doyle's books.
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229. Apr 16 #7 Madame Tussauds in London plans to open "Sherlock Holmes: The Experience" on July 15; it's described in the press release as an "interactive theatre experience" that offers "theatrical sets, illusion, actors, sound effects, and spectacle" <www.tinyurl.com/jlkkn9>. And there will be a summer-season run starting on July 14 of "The Game's Afoot" in which visitors get to play detective.
 230. A new addition to the genre of Sherlockian porno: "Sherlock: A XXX Parody" (2016) a 176-minute DVD produced by Digital Playground and available from Adult Empire <www.adultvdempire.com> (\$29.99); the company also offers the earlier "The Secret of Harlot Hill" (2001).
 231. Mario Faraone's SU IL SIPARIO WATSON! (Rome, Sapienza Università Editrice, 2012; 620 pp., €18.00) is a detailed discussion (in Italian) of four Sherlockian plays: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" and "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes", Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Crown Diamond", and Anthony Nathan O'Malley's "Footsteps", and with Italian translations of the plays. O'Malley's "Footsteps" is a one-act play based on Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", published by the author in Haslemere in 1949 and catalogued by the British Library; apparently the play was neither formally published nor performed. Faraone's book is available at <www.amazon.it>.
 232. Nick Utechin spotted a report that "Church Hatch" in Christchurch, Dorset, is for sale by Denisons <www.tinyurl.com/jaenkb> for £1,550,000; the house "is very unique and rumour has it that when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stayed in the house it inspired the Sherlock Holmes story 'The Speckled Band'."
 233. Kit West died on Apr. 20. He was responsible for the "old school" mechanical effects on the 1981 film "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (1981), for which he won an Oscar; his many other films included "Dune" (1984) and "Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi" (1993), and he was nominated for an Oscar for his work on "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985).
 234. David Harnois continues to add to his dramatized readings of the Canon, and now has the first four stories at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>; you can listen to or download the dramatized readings, which are nicely done.
 235. DC Smith has reported some new (and interesting) miniature books from the Bo Press <www.tinyurl.com/gn97ykh>: not copies of the Canon, but rather all of the known books, pamphlets, and monographs written by Holmes, but also books written by Moriarty and Moran. \$460 for twenty volumes (blank books) in a double-sided bookcase (according to Pat Smith, the proprietor of the press, the books are blank because "negotiations with the Moran and Moriarty heirs about permissions have been a bit fraught").
 236. Michael Robertson's THE BAKER STREET JURORS (New York: Minotaur, 2016; 260 pp., \$24.99) is the fifth in his series about Reggie and Nigel Heath, who have their offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires them to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail, which in this book includes a jury summons for Holmes; Nigel also receives a summons, and serves on a jury in a murder trial, which provides readers with an interesting look at the British judicial system, and a complicated mystery.
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237. Apr 16 #8 There is a report at the Get Surrey web-site (Apr. 22) that the DFN Foundation has announced that its Stepping Stones School at Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, will open at the start of the autumn term on Sept. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/zcvhph5>. And there will be an exhibition about the development of the school and Undershaw at the Haslemere Museum starting in June. You can watch a time-lapse video of work in progress at Undershaw at the Foundation's web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/j5njkat>.
 238. Lee Eric Shackleford, author of the play "Holmes & Watson" (1989), has created an interesting web-series ("Herlock") that stars Alana Jordan (Jonny Watts) and Gia Mora (Sheridan Hume). The pilot episode ("Silver Blade") is available at YouTube and at the series web-site <www.herlock.us>.
 239. Theater news: Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" will be presented by the National Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y., May 5-8 <www.tinyurl.com/gr2y663>.
 240. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" has been scheduled at the Roswell Community Little Theatre in Roswell, N.M., from May 6 to May 15 <www.roswelltheatre.com>.
 241. Old West Melodrama will present "Holmes Sweet Homicide" (featuring Hemlock Holmes and his female sidekick Whatsun) at Puffabellys Depot Restaurant in Old Town Spring, Tex., May 13-28 <www.oldwestmelodrama.com>.
 242. Malcolm Sircom's "Olivia: A Musical for Junior Schools" will be performed at the Wellington Arts Centre in Wellington, Somerset, June 22-25; there's no web-site, but the box-office's phone number is 01823-662780. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are characters in the show).
 243. Andy Diemer's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of National Secrets" will be performed at the Master Arts Theatre in Grand Rapids, Mich., June 3-11 <www.masterarts.org>.
 244. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Prana Center Yoga and Acting Studio in Holliston, Mass., July 8-9 <www.pranacenter.org>.

245. Kandie Carle's play "William Gillette: Senator's Son to Super Sleuth" will be performed by the East Haddam Stage Company at Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam, Conn., July 9-Aug. 14. The company also will tour performing Gillette's 1930 radio script for "The Speckled Band", Sept. 9-Oct. 15, and they plan to produce "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Christmas Goose", from Thanksgiving to Christmas <www.ehsco.org>.
246. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Millbrook Playhouse in Mill Hall, Pa., July 22-31; web-site <www.millbrookplayhouse.org>; at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage in Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 8-Oct. 9 <www.artsclub.com>; and at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Minn., Oct. 5-30 <www.mbttheatre.com>.

247. May 16 #1 Sherlockians who remember the early Sherlockian PC games, and Sherlockians who aren't that old, will enjoy an article by Justin Address on "The History of Sherlock Holmes in Video Games, on-line at the Inverse web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/zrofvqg>; Address notes the early appearance of "Sherlock" (released by Beam Software in 1984). But that certainly wasn't the first Sherlockian computer game: Radio Shack's "Quick Watson" ("one computer game that old Sherlock would surely have found fascinating!") was reported (Sep 80 #1) in their TRS-80 software library, available for \$4.95. Does anyone know of anything earlier?
248. "It's Elementary, My Dear Watson That I Owe My Life to William Gillette" is an interesting 41-minute broadcast on WNPR-FM (Hartford) on Feb. 10, available for listening or download <www.tinyurl.com/gwtyna>; the program featured interviews with Henry Zecher, Susan Dahlinger, and Shera Cohen, who has written a one-act play "Elementary, My Dear Fellow") about Gillette.
249. "Our mission: build better brains" is the motto of Marbles: The Brain Store, and they offer excellent and challenging puzzles and games, including "The Sherlock" (an imaginative puzzle created by the company) and available from them (\$49.95) in their stores or on-line at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/z7kfskn>.
250. Manuscript alert: one page from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will go to auction at Christie's in New York on June 16, estimated at \$80,000-120,000 <www.tinyurl.com/jkavuf6>. Randall Stock's detailed discussion of the page will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/h2rwnzc>.
251. There may be something Sherlockian in the new "Star Trek: All Access" television series announced by CBS-TV for Jan. 2017: one of the writers on the series is Nicholas Meyer, who wrote the screenplay for "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991) and directed the film; Meyer had Christopher Plummer (as Klingon General Chang) say "The game's afoot." While Chang was quoting from Shakespeare rather than the Canon, there's an additional interesting story, told by Ryan Britt at the Den of Geek web-site on Feb. 29: according to Britt, Meyer is the reason why "Star Trek" made it out of the 80s: without his direction and writing of "The Wrath of Khan" in 2009, we could live in an alternate universe in which J. J. Abrams never makes "Star Trek" and by extension "The Force Awakens" never exists. Meyer's bar mitzvah present for a very-young J. J. Abrams was a copy of THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES.
252. Each year the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Free dom compiles a list of the ten most frequently challenged books (based on reports and media stories noted by the ALA of written complaints filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness. In 2015 the fifth most frequently challenged book was Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME, challenged for "offensive language, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group, and other (profanity and atheism)." There's more information about the list at <www.tinyurl.com/p8vccjd>.

253. May 16 #2 "The Case of the Curious Trademark and Contemptible Registration" is what Michael Lee calls the filing by Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. opposing an application by Universal to register a trademark for "Sherlock Homeboy", saying that Universal's use of the mark will "tarnish and degrade the positive associations and prestigious connotations" of the CDEL trademarks. You can read Lee's post at the Pirated Thoughts web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hjxoods>; his blog has other interesting entries dealing with battles over copyright, trademarks, counterfeits, and much more.
254. Philip K. Jones' database of Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has 11,198 entries; the 3-MB EXCEL file is available on request from Phil <pkenj@wowway.com>. It's far more than merely a list of authors and titles, and an excellent (some might say frightening) demonstration of how popular Sherlock Holmes is.
255. Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (Oct 15 #5) has won an Edgar (best biographical/critical) from the Mystery Writers of America, and an Agatha (best non-fiction) from Malice Domestic. Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES (Jan 15 #5) also won an Agatha (best historical novel).
256. David Stuart Davies and Barry Forshaw have been nominated for an H. R. F. Keating Award (best biographical or critical book related to crime fiction) for THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK at CrimeFest in Bristol May 20, as was Martin Edwards for THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER. Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES also was nominated for the Kobo eDunnit Award (best crime fiction e-book). And Edward's THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER has been nominated for an Anthony (best critical of nonfiction book at Bouchercon in New Orleans, Sept. 15-18).
257. "The Abbey of Crime Extensum" is an on-line adventure game inspired by Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE (both the novel and the film); it's available free at <www.store.steampowered.com/app/474030>.
258. Bill Peschel has continued his 223B Casebook Series, presenting the results of his pursuit of the many parodies and pastiches published in newspapers, magazines, and books, reprinted with annotations and brief year-by-year accounts of what Conan Doyle was doing at the time. The latest volumes are SHERLOCK HOLMES: EDWARDIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1905-1909 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2016; 385 pp.) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: GREAT WAR PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1915-1919 (379 pp.) (each \$15.99), and it's grand fun to see such a wide variety of homages to the Great Detective. His web-site is at <www.peschelpress.com>. The first volume of "Great War Parodies and Pastiches" will be published soon.
259. Bill does not restrict his literary endeavors to Sherlockian pastiches and parodies: he also enjoys Dorothy L. Sayers, and his THE COMPLETE, ANNOTATED WHOSE BODY? includes discussion of the Sherlockian allusions in her novel in his 500 footnotes and nine essays. He has blogged about the book at his web-site Planet Peschel <www.tinyurl.com/zy8ldv7>.
260. Bill also has published three volumes devoted to Dr. William Palmer (who's mentioned in the Canon: "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession"). Palmer was considered "the prince of poisoners, and you'll find Bill's books at <www.tinyurl.com/gw95q29>.

261. May 16 #3 Lenny Picker has noted a second "Downton Abbey" crossover with "Sherlock Holmes" (Apr 16 #3): Hugh Bonneville (Robert Crawley, the Earl of Grantham) appeared as Victor Savage in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994) and as Merridew in "The Remarkable Performance of Mr. Frederick Merridew" in the BBC radio series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (2008).
262. "Sherlock Holmes & the Internet of Things" was launched last year as an attempt "to build a massive connected crime scene consisting of smart storytelling objects," sponsored by the Columbia University Digital Storytelling Lab (Aug 15 #7); it's now a going concern, and registration for this year's MOOC [Massive Online/Offline Collaboration] opened on May 24. This year's first crime scene will be staged at Lincoln Center in New York during the New York Film Festival (Sept. 30-Oct. 16), and a Sherlock Global Challenge is scheduled for Oct. 24-25 <www.2106.sherlockholmes.io>. There are videos about last year's event available at YouTube <www.youtube.com>.

263. Aziz Bin Adam notes that you can watch more than 15 minutes of gameplay for the upcoming computer game "Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Daughter" due from Frogwares on May 27 <www.tinyurl.com/jbqu36u>.
264. Don Pollock has noted an interesting post to The Key Reporter by Samantha Yates <www.tinyurl.com/zazetaq> about the Westminster Detective Library, an on-line work-in-progress with the goal of cataloguing and making available all of the short fiction dealing with detectives and detection published in the United States before Conan Doyle's "A Scandal in Bohemia" in July 1891 (and there's a lot of it) <www.tinyurl.com/3u7lzu9>.
265. [Apr 16 #2] I asked if anyone recognized a pastiche: "In a Sherlock Holmes story, a friend of Dr. Watson is due to receive an inheritance on the New Year's Day of the year of his 21st birthday. The law deprives him of the money as he was born on Feb. 29. Holmes eventually helps him to fake his death long enough for his grandson, who is the appropriate age to receive the inheritance, to establish his claim and receive the money himself."
266. Compliments and thanks to Pat Villacrusis and Michael W. McClure: the pastiche is the Rathbone/Bruce radio program "The Case of the Iron Box" (Dec. Dec 31, 1945), and you can listen to it at <www.tinyurl.com/h6tybk9>.
267. "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" offers papers from the Baker Street Irregulars' conference at UCLA in 2012 (257 pp., \$29.95); edited by Lyndsay Faye and Ashley D. Polasek, with eighteen papers, many of them illustrated, and all of them interesting. Recommended both to those who attended the festivities and to those who would like to see what they missed. Details on the volume, and the chapter on "The Great Mouse Detective" (by two of its directors) are at <www.tinyurl.com/zhvut5y>.
268. Donald Sosin, who wrote the score for the four musicians who performed at the San Francisco premiere of the restoration of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" last year, has been commissioned by the Odessa International Film Festival to expand his score for a 45-piece orchestra. He has created an Indigogo campaign to fund the project (which he calls "Sherlock Holmes: The Odessa Connection"); details at <www.tinyurl.com/hpb3hij>.
269. May 16 #4 Laura C. Berry will present a course on "The Long Life of Sherlock Holmes" at Arizona State University beginning June 7, and you can see her video promotion of the course at <www.tinyurl.com/jsvqzx3>. It's an excellent demonstration of modern technology: the company that made the video recorded her in front of a green screen, and their final version has her (as Alexander Orlov has observed) at Lenfilm Studios in St. Petersburg in the display of some of the props used in the Russian Livanov/Solomin television series (1979-1986).
270. For those who have jumbo television screens at home, there's a new 4K technology that offers higher definition, and Ian Richardson's television films "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983) are available in a new 4K restoration courtesy of Second Sight (with new audio commentary by David Stuart Davies). The films are in Blu-ray (region B) and DVD (region 2), and you can buy them at Amazon UK; you'll need multi-region players or computers to run the disks in other regions.
271. The Hounds of the Internet are still going strong, but the electronic mailing list has not always been exclusively bits-and-bytes: ten volumes of THE HOUNDS COLLECTION were published, from 1996 onward, offering those who preferred ink-on-paper a dead-tree selection of material that had been posted to the mailing list. Ron Lies <rlies1@msn.com> wants to complete his run, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who is willing to part with the first two volumes.
272. Leslie Katz has noted an interesting web-site "Survey of London: Recording the History of London's Built Environment Since 1894" maintained by the University College London, where there's a new posting about the Langham Hotel <www.tinyurl.com/htfhenq>; the Langham's mentioned in three of Sherlock Holmes' cases. And the web-site's well worth exploring for other Canonical geography.
273. The 2016 edition of the Green Bag Almanac & Reader includes a "new lawyerly edition" of "The Reigate Puzzle" with extensive annotations by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians, a reprint and discussion of "The Field Bazaar" (with a for-the-first-time facsimile of Conan Doyle's pastiche's first appearance in The Student in 1896) and other interesting Sherlockian content. It's a splendid contribution to Sherlockian scholarship, and you can find extracts on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nl4nxhh> (with extracts from 2015 as well). If you go to <www.ssrn.com> and search for [arthur conan doyle] and [Sherlock holmes], you'll get even more hits, from the Green Bag and elsewhere. Ross Davies (editor of the Green Bag) reports that next year's edition will have less Sherlockian content, but we can expect a flip-book version of "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (1900).
274. The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Literary Estate has revised its web-site, which can be found at <www.arthurconandoyle.com>; the web-site reports that Andrea Plunket became gravely ill in December 2014 and that the company now is managed by the remaining family of Andrea's mother Lady Etelka Duncan. Another company, Arthur Conan Doyle Characters Ltd., is reported to own the European trademark rights to Conan Doyle characters, and there's an account of the on-going battles with the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. The CDEL's web-site is at <www.conandoyleestate.com>.
275. May 16 #5 Ernie Chan's original cover artwork for the DC comic book THE JOKER #6 (March/April 1976) was offered by Heritage Auctions on May 13; the issue featured Denny O'Neil's story "Sherlock Stalks the Joker" (Apr 16 #1), and the artwork sold for \$8,365 (including the buyer's premium). You can see the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/hx6r9ld>.
276. "It all begins with the words," Steven Philip Jones explains in his introduction to SHERLOCK HOLMES IS ON THE AIR! (Caliber Comics, 2015; 172 pp., \$17.99), and it's an apt explanation of why it's so much fun to read radio scripts; the book contains two scripts by Jones and two scripts by Matthew J. Elliot from the long series produced by Jim French Productions for his Imagination Theater. The publisher's web-site's at www.calibercomics.com and you'll find all of the radio series at <www.jimfrenchproductions.com>.
277. Caliber also has published a graphic novel SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE RETIRED DETECTIVE (2015; 52 pp., \$8.99), written by Gary Reed with artwork by Wayne Reid, accompanied by a second story "Amazing Mr. Holmes" as well as "A Case of Identity" with illustrations by Reid. And MURDER AT THE CABARET (2016; 58 pp., \$8.99), written by Gary Reed and illustrated by Michael Zigerlig, a revised second edition (first published in 2010 as SHERLOCK HOLMES: MURDER AT MOULIN ROUGE and retitled after they received a letter from the Moulin Rouge complaining about trademark infringement).
278. Further to the report (Jan 16 #4) on the Criterion Restaurant, open again as the Savini at Criterion <www.saviniatcriterion.co.uk>, there was a lengthy (and unenthusiastic) review of the restaurant in the Daily Telegraph on Apr. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/hrcoe2t>.
279. "The Lost Special" (1932) was a 12-episode Universal Pictures serial based on Conan Doyle's story (considered by many to be Apocryphal), updated and set in the American west, and available on a DVD www.tinyurl.com/zne3ebg (Sep 08 #2); Greg Ruby reports that you can also now view it (free) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/znumhba>. Many Sherlockians believe that the Apocrypha are stories that involve Holmes (even though he's not named) and should be considered for possible inclusion in the accepted Canon.
280. Ross E. Davies, noting the lack of a go-to web-site for Sherlockian Toasts, has remedied that lapse <www.rossdavies.org/toasts>. If you have given an appropriate toast, you can send the text and other details to Ross (at the link at his web-site).
281. There are two interesting Conan Doyle items in the spring/summer 2016 catalog from Peter L. Stern <www.sternrarebooks.com>: an archive of letters to Maj. J. B. Pond about Conan Doyle's American lecture tour in 1894 (\$65,000) [item 24096P] and the original corrected typescript of Conan Doyle's 1906 play "Brigadier Gerard" (\$22,500) [item 31067P].

282. There are a few Sherlockians who fondly remember seeing the Rathbone/Bruce film "Terror by Night" when it was screened by Chris Steinbrunner on board the Essex Steam Train in the Connecticut Valley; the train's still running, this summer hosting "Passengers from the Past" who included (on June 25-26) William and Helen Gillette (impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver). They can be seen in costume and in color at <www.tinyurl.com/h8ch94w>.
283. May 16 #6 Further to reports (Sep 14 #7 and Dec 14 #5) of a new "Sherlock Holmes" coming to Broadway in 2017, Playbill reported (May 11) that the play will have its British premiere in the summer of 2017 en route to Broadway; Daniel Evans will direct the play, which has been written by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel: "Staged as a mystery within a mystery, the case presented to Holmes forces him to confront his murky past. But is the unravelling of his childhood just a dangerous diversion?"
284. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is on at the Lowe Auditorium in Upper Fern Gully, Vic. (Australia) through June 4 <www.1812theatre.com.au>.
285. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Wilson Theatre in South Bend, Ind., June 3-12 <www.sbct.org>. And at the Whittier Community Theatre in Whittier, Calif., June 3-18; web-site at <www.whittiercommunitytheatre.org>.
286. "Sherlock Holmes and the Invisible Thing" (a new play by Greg Freeman and Ken McClymont) will be performed at the Tabard Theatre in London, June 7-July 16 <www.tabardweb.co.uk>.
287. The KSP Theatre Group will present Simon Denver's panto "Sheer Luck Holmes" at the KSP Theatre in Burpengary, Qld., Australia, from June 10 to June 19 <www.ksptheatreinc.net>.
288. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Hidden Notes" (a new play) is due at The Meteor in Hamilton, New Zealand, June 29-July 2 <www.themeteor.co.nz>.
289. "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" (by K. C. Brown and Arne Zaslove), is due at the Hopewell Playhouse in Hopewell, N.J., July 1-30 <www.off-broadstreet.com>
290. "Sherlock Holmes and the Beast of Whitechapel" (a new play by Lawrence Burgess and John Johnson) will be performed by the Astral Theatre Collective at the Alban Arts and Conference Center in St. Albans, W. Va., July 8 to 17 <www.astraltheatrecollective.wordpress.com>, and then will tour in W. Va.
291. Millie Hardy Sims' adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Theatre Royal in Workington, July 16-17 <www.workington-playgoers.org.uk>.
292. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., July 21-Aug. 7 <www.kinetictheatre.org>.
293. Gus Kaikonen's new play "Sherlock!" will be performed at the Peterborough Players Theatre in Peterborough, N.H., Aug. 20-27; the theater's web-site is at <www.peterboroughplayers.org>.
294. The Servant Stage Company will present "Sherlock Holmes: The Detective and the Doctor" at the Black Box Theatre at the Trust Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, Pa., Aug. 25-Sept. 11 <www.servantstagecompany.com>.
295. Jun 16 #1 The Get Surrey web-site noted (June 11) that the Waverley Borough Council has approved plans for a games area, paths, and an outdoor learning area at the Stepping Stones School at Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home; according to a report by the Council's planning officers, "the proposal would not harm the special interest of the listed building nor cause harm to its significance including its setting and would appear visually acceptable." The school will re-site the historical airing shed that Conan Doyle had built for his wife Touie, who suffered from tuberculosis while they lived there.
296. Colonel Sebastian Moran's Secret Gun Club, one of the many weird and wonderful Sherlockian societies, held its Quadrennial Mongoose Hunt this year (organized, as always, by Don Izbán), and you can see photographs from the event in the May issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's "Baker Street Bulletin" <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times16-5.htm>. The next hunt is scheduled for Feb. 29, 2020.
297. Dame Ngaio Marsh had (and has) many admirers who continue to enjoy her novels about Inspector Roderick Alleyn. She wrote much more than that: there is an interesting volume of COLLECTED SHORT MYSTERIES (New York: Felony & Mayhem, 2015; 236 pp., \$14.95), edited and introduced by Douglas G. Greene. First published as THE COLLECTED SHORT FICTION OF NGAIO MARSH (1989), the book includes two essays ("Roderick Alleyn" and "Portrait of Troy") about her characters and their creation, and the essays include some insightful commentary on Conan Doyle and Holmes.
298. They're off and running: the 2016 Wessex Cup (For the Sake of the Trust) is scheduled Oct. 8 at Laurel Park in Laurel, Md. Greg Ruby is organizing the event, and there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/zq9r4vg>.
299. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at The James Joyce in Calgary on June 22, welcomed by members of The Singular Society of the Baker Street Dozen. The geologists' next dinners will be on Sept. 28 in Denver, and on Apr. 5, 2017, in Houston.
300. "The Case of Sherlock Holmes" was a 70-minute documentary narrated by Tim Piggott-Smith and broadcast by the BBC in 1987, with appearances by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and by John Bennett Shaw and The Brothers Three of Moriarty (in Moriarty, N.M.). You can watch (almost all of) it at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jy57kfw>.
301. Howard Ostrom has reported an amusing appearance by Basil Rathbone on "The Frank Sinatra Show" on CBS-TV (Mar. 24, 1951): Rathbone, wearing Sherlockian costume, helps Sinatra find his missing lucky bow tie. You can watch the 7-minute skit at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hr9g5e5>.
302. The world of Lego extends far beyond the mere bricks they started with, and it now includes a variety of MOC [My Own Creation] Legos (that's pronounced "mock" according to an on-line Lego glossary). BrickWarriors produces what it calls a "gentleman's pipe" that you can see in an imaginative Sherlockian scene at <www.tinyurl.com/jh86xyg>.
303. Jun 16 #2 It's likely we'll see many more episodes of the CBS-TV series "Elementary": Les Moonves (chairman of the CBS Corp.) said this month that CBS had made approximately an \$80 million profit from the series last year. And Rob Doherty (creator, executive producer, and showrunner of the series) has closed a new three-year deal with CBS Television Studios; he'll continue as executive producer and showrunner on the series, and will develop and supervise new projects.
304. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center in Mobile, Ala., on May 28 and will run through Sept. 5 <www.exploreum.com>. <www.rivermuseum.com>.
305. "Mycroft Holmes and the Apocalypse Handbook" is a new comic-book mini-series from Titan Comics; written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld, artwork by Joshua Cassara. Previewed at <www.tinyurl.com/j2opoar>.

306. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK (a new "bookazine" from Imagine Publishing) costs £9.99/\$19.99; it's subtitled "the facts & fiction behind the world's greatest detective" and is part of Imagine's "Curious Minds" series; it's interesting and well illustrated, but difficult to find in the U.S., and apparently available on-line only at <www.tinyurl.com/h9jvnx>.
307. "They say good fortune breeds bad luck in the heart of the Cariboo. Whispers in the mines told of a hellish hound intent on keeping the gold in Barkerville, prompting superstitious miners to refrain from making a spectacle of their spoils. Especially on full moon nights." That's according to the label on Hound of the Barkerville Brown Ale, from the Barkerville Brewing Co. in Quesnel, B.C., discovered by Bob Coghill. "Keep the hounds at bay with this malt-forward brown ale, copper in colour with a satisfying and silky finish, the company promises, noting that it's malty, fierce, and mystical.
308. Does anyone have a copy of the March 1945 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine? It contains "The Curious Incident of the Dog" (by Ralph Norman Weber), and I wonder if the story is Sherlockian in some way other than the allusion in the title.
309. Glenn Laxton ("Mr. James M. Dodd") died on June 8. He was a journalist and a historian; he began his career in journalism at WEOK-AM in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and worked for WPRI-TV in Providence, R.I., for more than 40 years. He contributed an article on "Sherlock Holmes and the Six O'Clock News" to The Baker Street Journal, and was a member of The Hudson Valley Scionists and The Cornish Horrors, as well as The Sons of the Desert and the Screen Actors Guild. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1975.
310. Litographs (May 13 #6) has expanded its line of literary T-shirts and posters to include tote bags, all with artistic designs created from the text of books, including THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES <www.litographs.com>. Of more interest, perhaps, are their packets of temporary literary tattoos, one of the packets offering six Sherlockian designs. And you can click on "Tattoo Chain" to see an imaginative (non-Sherlockian) work-in-progress.
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311. Jun 16 #3 Further to the review of the UCLA conference proceedings SHERLOCK HOLMES: BEHIND THE CANONICAL SCREEN (May 16 #3), the Baker Street Babes' podcast 74 <www.tinyurl.com/zc4fpqv> has 56 minutes of audio commentary on the conference and on the book, as well as links to video of the presentations by Ashley Polasek ("A Study in Terror vs. Murder by Decree") and Lyndsay Faye (on "The Women: Sex and Success in the canon, Warner Brothers, and the BBC's Sherlock"), and their following Q&A. And there is much more of interest at the Babes' web-site.
312. The page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 16 (May 16 #1) with an estimate of \$80,000-\$120,000 did not make the reserve and thus went unsold. Randall Stock's notes on the page will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/h2rwnzc>.
313. Jennie Paton has kindly reported a splendid 64-minute post-mortem on "The Abominable Bride" (the tenth episode of the BBC's "Sherlock" series), and it's well worth watching <www.tinyurl.com/groqxnv>: Boyd Hilton hosts Sue Vertue, Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat, and Amanda Abbington.
314. G. S. Denning's WARLOCK HOLMES; A STUDY IN BRIMSTONE (London: Titan Books, 2016; 373 pp., \$14.95) features (from the back cover) Warlock Holmes (incompetent detective), Vladislav Lestrade (nihilist vampire), Torg Grogsson (house-proud ogre), and John Watson (terrified); it's an amusing spoof of six of the Canonical cases, and nicely done. Also from Titan: Stuart Douglas' THE ALBINO'S TREASURE (2015; 249 pp., \$9.95); Holmes and Watson are in pursuit of an inventive villain. Cavan Scott's THE PATCHWORK DEVIL (2016; 297 pp., \$14.95); a science-fiction adventure that starts with the discovery of a hand, freshly severed from a soldier who had died two years earlier. James Lovegrove's THE THINKING ENGINE (2015; 301 pp., \$14.95) brings Holmes and Watson to Oxford to investigate a computing device with far more power than Charles Babbage's difference engine, and Holmes finds himself in competition with the machine to solve a series of crimes perpetrated by an arch villain. Sam Siciliano's THE WHITE WORM (2016; 337 pp., \$9.95) adds to his series of accounts of the adventures of Holmes and his cousin Dr. Henry Vernier, in a story inspired by Bram Stoker's THE LAIR OF THE WHITE WORM. There are many other pastiches available from Titan; see their web-site at <www.titanbooks.com>.
315. "Dear Mr. Holmes," Agatha Christie wrote in September 1970. "How nice of you to send me a birthday card of greeting. I much appreciate your kindness and good wishes. I am so glad my books have given you pleasure. All good wishes to you. And many happy returns on your birthday on Sept. 23rd. Yours sincerely." The letter, offered on June 15 at Lion Heart Autographs <www.tinyurl.com/jb3dobz>, indicates that Christie corresponded with Sherlock Holmes, that Holmes was alive in 1970, and that Holmes was born in September rather than January; estimated at \$400-\$600, the letter sold for \$450.
316. Cultural literacy: we so often read of people who are "the Sherlock Holmes" of whatever (anything and everything), most recently with Samuel K. Wasser <www.tinyurl.com/zbtbek4>, noted by Ray Betzner; his Google search for [the Sherlock Holmes of] turned up 497 hits. Other numbers: 21 for Miss Marple, 7 for Hercule Poirot, and 1 for Nero Wolfe.
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317. Jun 16 #4 The spring issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, and Bob Katz's report on "Becoming Dr. Watson" and the history of the John H. Watson Fund, revealing at least some details about the continuing effort to help Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities in January. The issue is available both at the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, you can send a request <editor@bsitrust.org>.
318. The new issue of Proceedings from the Pondicherry Lodge, published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of India <www.tinyurl.com/h5en3cp>, is an excellent example of what's now available (free) on the Internet: 119 pages of Sherlockian essays, pastiches, and much more, including Howard Ostrom's interesting report on the history and content of the Russian television series that starred Igor Petrenko and Andrei Panin.
319. Charles Harold St. John Hamilton was a prolific English writer who specialized in long-running series of stories published in boys' school magazines; his pseudonyms included Martin Clifford and Peter Todd, and one of his creations was Herlock Sholmes who appeared in magazines such as the Greyfriars Herald, the Magnet, the Gem, and the Penny Popular. He has fans, and (of course) a web-site <www.friardale.co.uk> that offers access to all of his Herlock Sholmes stories <www.tinyurl.com/jo4dmtk>. A note for completists: "Grundy's Guilt!" (The Gem Library #465, Jan. 6, 1917) was reprinted with the new title "Sherlock Grundy Esq." (The Gem #1,601, Oct. 22, 1938).
320. Spotted by Jennie C. Paton: an amusing 15-minute video of Steven Moffat and Sue Vertue being interviewed by their son Louis Moffat, available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/q6hlo97>. Louis (credited as Louis Oliver) appeared as Young Sherlock in "His Last Vow" (2014); Stephen Moffat has said elsewhere that he's a firm believer in nepotism.
321. Maurice Leblanc's Arsène Lupin has long been popular, and not just because he sometimes outwitted Sherlock Holmes (or Herlock Sholmes). Two "Arsène Lupin" television series aired in France in 1971 and 1973, with Henry Virlojeux as Herlock Sholmes in four episodes, and three of them are available at YouTube. <www.tinyurl.com/zehkbkp> is the link for "Arsène Lupin contre Herlock Sholmes" (103), and you can look at the right for "Herlock Sholmes lance un défi" (201) and "L'homme au chapeau noir" (205); the other episode is "Le secret d'aiguille" (204), not available (so far). Thanks to Howard Ostrom, who spotted the Arsène Lupin material.

322. "Literary Sleuth Unmasks Conan Doyle as Plot Thief" was the headline on a story in The Sunday Times (June 5), reporting that British anthologist Hugh Lamb had found that Conan Doyle had taken the idea of suicide made to look like murder from "The Red Haired Pickpocket" (written by Frank Froest and George Dilnot and published in 1915, seven years earlier than "The Problem of Thor Bridge" appeared in The Strand Magazine). Of course the idea was not original with Froest and Dilnot: Lillian de la Torre noted (in The Baker Street Journal in Oct. 1948) that Dr. Hans Gross had written about such a crime much earlier. Gross' SYSTEM DER KRIMINALISTIK (1891) was published in English in 1907.
323. Jun 16 #5 Denny Dobry suggests collectors note listings by a new seller at eBay: wiggins221b. That's Denny, who will be offering material donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust, in order to help with funding the work of the Trust; the first item, opened for bidding on June 30, is a copy of the slip-cased limited edition, signed by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, of John Michael Gibson's splendid facsimile of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887. More material will be offered, and information about the work of the Trust can be found at <www.bsitrust.org>.
324. Neil McCaw (Professor of Victorian Literature and Culture at the University of Winchester) has created a delightful 5-minute TED-Ed lesson on "Who IS Sherlock Holmes?" (with amusing animation by Lasse Rütou Bruntse); available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/zcmrobb>.
325. "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the title of this month's conference in Minneapolis, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries) was a delightful gathering, well-attended and with interesting papers; their next conference will be in 2019, and surely as enjoyable as this one.
326. Zach Dundas, author of THE GREAT DETECTIVE: THE AMAZING RISE AND IMMORTAL LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Aug 15 #2) happily reported at the conference that the new trade paperback edition (New York: Manner Books, 336 pp., \$15.95) is a new edition, with corrections that make it "99% more accurate."
327. Andrea Reynolds Plunket's death in April was reported in Richard Turley's colorful obituary in Orb Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/gmfw2n5> that described her as "the Mitteleuropa manipulator whose talent for self-invention propelled her to the upper echelons of international society and whose propensity for self-destructiveness eventually alienated all who loved her." She spent years unsuccessfully contesting the ownership of the Sherlock Holmes copyrights <www.tinyurl.com/gs6wras>.
328. ELEMENTARY: BLOOD AND INK, by Adam Christopher (London: Titan Books, 2016; 297 pp., \$7.99) is the second volume in his tie-in series, following ELEMENTARY: THE GHOST LINE (Aug 15 #7); it's a new mystery that captures the flavor and style of the CBS-TV television series. The author's web-site is at <www.adamchristopher.ac>.
329. It's not clear just how Sherlockian the new Scotland Yard restaurant in San Francisco is, but there's a Sherlockian silhouette at the gastropub's web-site <www.scotlandyardsf.com>.
330. The "British Library Crime Classics" series offers trade paperback reprints of excellent novels and short stories (£8.99 each), including four anthologies edited by Martin Edwards, each with one story by Conan Doyle: SILENT NIGHTS: CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES ("The Blue Carbuncle"), CAPITAL CRIMES: LONDON MYSTERIES ("The Case of Lady Sannox"), MURDER AT THE MANOR: COUNTRY HOUSE MYSTERIES ("The Copper Beeches"), and SERPENTS IN EDEN: COUNTRYSIDE CRIMES ("The Black Doctor"); Edwards provides both enthusiastic introductions and a careful selection of stories, some old favorites and some neglected but well worth reading (U.S. editions are published by the Poisoned Pen Press).
331. Jun 16 #6 Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the StageNorth Theatre in Washburn, Wis., through July 9 <www.stagenorth.com>. And it will be performed at the Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, Calif., Oct. 21-Nov. 19 <www.centerrep.org>, and at the Riffe Center's Studio Two Theatre in Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 25-Feb. 12, 2017 <www.catcoistheatre.com>.
332. Terry O'Brien's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Werewolf of London" will be performed at Elaine's dinner theater in Cape May, N.J., July 12 through late November <www.elainescapemay.com>.
333. There will be a lot of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe <www.edfringe.com>, including "Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother in the Case of a Study in Blood", Aug. 4-20; "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes", Aug. 4-28; "Spontaneous Sherlock", Aug. 6-28; "Arthur Conan Doyle--Man of Mystery", Aug. 8-12; "The Accidental Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", Aug. 8-29; and "Arthur Conan Doyle, an Edinburgh Man", Aug. 9-23. And David Stuart Davies will perform his "The Game's Afoot" on Aug. 15-19.
334. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Lakeshore Players Theatre in White Bear Lake, Minn., Sept. 8 through 23 <www.lakeshoreplayers.org>; and at Theatre Knoxville Downtown in Knoxville, Tenn., Apr. 21-May 7, 2017 <www.theatreknoxville.com>.
335. Brock D. Vickers' new dramatization "Storyboard: The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Hedgerow Theatre in Media, Pa., Sept. 9-18 <www.hedgerowtheatre.org>.
336. "Miss Holmes" (a new play by Christopher M. Walsh, with a female Holmes and Watson) will be performed at the Lifeline Theatre in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 9-Oct. 30 <www.lifelinetheatre.com>.
337. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Theater Wit in Chicago, Sept. 17-Nov. 14 <www.theaterwit.org>.
338. John Charles Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Ouachita Little Theatre in Mena, Ark., in October. The web-site's at <www.ouachitalittletheatre.org>.
339. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Sitnik Theater in Hackettstown, N.J., from Oct. 7 to Oct. 23 <www.centenarystageco.org>.
340. The 1965 musical "Baker Street" will be performed at the Eureka Theatre in San Francisco, Calif., Nov. 2-20 <www.42ndstmoon.org>.
341. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is scheduled by the Windham Theatre Guild at the Burton Leavitt Theatre in Willimantic, Conn., Nov. 4-13 web-site at <www.windhamtheatreguild.org>.

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342. Otto Penzler has received Bouchercon's David Thompson Special Service Award for "extraordinary efforts to develop and promote the crime fiction field." Otto presides over the Mysterious Bookshop and founded the Mysterious Press in 1975; he also published the quarterly journal The Armchair Detective for many years, and has edited a long list of anthologies and reference books, and has an interesting web-site at <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.
343. The spring issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) offers Angela Misri's discussion of the "universal themes" in Conan Doyle's letters to his Strand editor Greenhough Smith, Richard Sveum's examination of Conan Doyle's novel A DUET WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS, and other news from the Library; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

344. PROFESSOR CHALLENGER: NEW WORLDS, LOST PLACES, edited by J. R. Campbell and Charles Prepolec (Calgary: Edge, 2015; 250 pp., \$15.95), is an nice tribute to another of Conan Doyle's great characters; the anthology offers ten stories by authors who tell tales of new adventures of Challenger and his companions from THE LOST WORLD and other stories.
345. Everett C. Hoffman ("Merridew of Abominable Memory") died on May 7, 2013. He had a successful career in public relations at McGraw Hill, and was an enthusiastic artist, teaching at the Cooper Union and the Pratt Institute in New York and the Academy of Arts in Newark, and exhibiting in galleries, art centers and museums. He was a member of Bill Rabe's Old SOB'S (The Old Soldiers of Baker Street) and provided Sherlockian artwork for an article by Bill in The Woods-Runner in Jan. 1984; Everett received his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1958.
346. Those who attended "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (this year's conference in Minneapolis, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries) received copies of THE MISSING MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, an interesting anthology edited by Julie McKuras, Timothy Johnson, Ray Riethmeier, and Philip Bergem, offering at least some of the stories that Dannay and Lee noted were omitted from their 1944 anthology. It's an interesting selection, and a nice companion to the original MISADVENTURES (219 pp., postpaid \$30.00 US/\$40.00 Canada, and you should order from Phil Bergem, 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304) (for other countries, contact Phil at <pgbergem@gmail.com>).
347. The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Mitch Cullin's article about his donation of his papers (on his novel A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND and much else) to the Special Collections, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" tribute to Stephen Leacock, Evelyn Herzog's "50 Years Ago" account of the birth of a Sherlockian society at Albertus Magnus College, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>).

348. Jul 16 #2 John D. Constable ("The Crooked Man") died on June 6. He was educated at Harvard, graduating with honors, and had a long and distinguished career as a doctor, plastic surgeon, and teacher. His enthusiasms included Asian art, travel, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes; after joining The Speckled Band of Boston in 1953 he went on to preside over the Band, serving as its Keeper, for three decades and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
349. Alexander Orlov has kindly forwarded Vitaly Podvitsky's cartoon comment on the Brexit, published by RIA Novosti in Russia on June 28; Sherlock Holmes is saying, "Watson, I seem to have underestimated our housekeeper!"
350. Reported SHERLOCK HOLMES: CRIME ALLEYS, a new graphic novel from Dark Horse Books, written by Sylvain Cordurié and illustrated by Nespolino Alesandro; 104 pp., \$17.99 (it's a translation of an earlier French version).
351. The Television Academy has announced its nominations for this year's Emmy Awards, and "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" won nominations in six categories: one for Benedict Cumberbatch (lead actor in a limited series or movie) and five for the program (television movie; cinematography for a limited series or movie; movie; sound editing for a limited series, movie, or special; sound mixing for a limited series or movie; and visual effects in a supporting role). The Emmy Award presentations will be broadcast on ABC-TV on Sept. 18.
352. There are many web-sites that offer audio of old-time radio shows. Thanks to Alex Kane for the report that you can listen to 138 Sherlockian programs (1933-1983) at <www.archive.org/details/OTR_Sherlock_Holmes_smurfmeat>.

353. Jul 16 #3 It was on the "Today" show on NBC-TV in 1999 that Al Roker and Matt Lauer celebrated Sherlock Holmes' 145th birthday (Jan 99 #3), and Randall Stock has noted that Roker has contributed a short piece on THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES TO THE BOOKS THAT CHANGED MY LIFE, edited by Bethanne Patrick (New York: Regan Arts, 2016; 304 pp., \$24.95); the first book that Roker remembers is GREEN EGGS AND HAM, but reading Sherlock Holmes made him feel that he was "in on something, both a kind of secret, a way of reading the world, and also a club, people who loved Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson and wanted to learn more about their methods."
354. You can now rent William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) from Flicker Alley <www.flickeralley.com>, paying \$4.95 to watch it as many times as you want for 30 days. But you can't capture it: if you want to keep the film you will need to purchase the DVD (which has nice added features).
355. Greg Ruby reports that the Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will meet for dinner in Anaheim, Calif., on Aug. 11, during the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money; details at <www.tinyurl.com/zxvztjx>.
356. Further to the query (Jun 16 #2) about "The Curious Incident of the Dog" in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Mar. 1945): Greg Darak kindly reports that the story's about a modern-day police inspector who stops a robbery using a clue based on a seeing-eye dog.
357. "Just like Wimbledon, Stella Artois started from humble beginnings," is the slogan for the Belgian company's beer, and they have an amusing commercial in which Sherlock Holmes appears <www.tinyurl.com/jpv6gu4>.
358. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have posted their 100th "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast: it's a look back at their favorite moments, and an excellent celebration of their nine years of podcasting with a wide-ranging assortment of guests <www.ihose.co/ihose100> and #IHOSE100.
359. Phil Rosette is offering material from the Sherlockian collection of Bill Rothman: a list of individual books and pamphlets, and images of a single lot of about 400 books, are available on request <prosette@group41.com>.
360. Dan Stashower reports that the National Library of Scotland has digitized a detailed town plan of Edinburgh that was published as a supplement to the Illustrated London News on July 18, 1868 (nine years after Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh); you can zoom in and out, and navigate, and get a sense of how the city looked in those long-ago days.
361. The gray herringbone wool jacket that Basil Rathbone wore in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) was offered by Heritage Auctions in Beverly Hills on June 22, with an opening bid of \$7,500. But no one bid, and the jacket did not sell.
362. Big Chief Studios, which produced a set of licensed 1:6-scale figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman last year (Apr 15 #5), is going to issue a new set showing the pair in costume from "The Abominable Bride"; they're due for release next March, but you can pre-order now. They cost £189.99 each <www.bigchiefstudios.co.uk/collectibles/sherlock>.

363. Jul 16 #4 David Jaher's THE WITCH OF LIME STREET: SÉANCE, SEDUCTION, AND HOUDINI IN THE SPIRIT WORLD (Nov 15 #3) told the story of Mina Crandon, the medium known as Margery in the 1920s (Conan Doyle was one of her principal advocates, and Houdini her most energetic and fervent opponents; Jaher will be the featured speaker on Aug. 30 at Ventfort Hall, the Gilded Age house museum in Lenox, Mass. <www.gildenage.org>, built as their summer home by George and Sarah Morgan (she was the sister of J. Pierpont Morgan).
364. Bearlock Holmes was one of 62 teddy bears made predominantly from straw that were displayed this month at the Teddy Bear Trail in Great Ellingham in South Norfolk. Money raised from the festival goes to local charities.

365. Foreign translations of the Canon are not restricted to ink-on-paper: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is now available as a radio drama in Bengali at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hupnmka> (with English subtitles); it was produced by Asha Audio for Radio Mirchi, and runs 5 hours and 35 minutes.
366. Pokémon Go, described at Wikipedia as a free-to-play location-based augmented reality mobile game, has become one of the most-used smart-device apps; it has created controversy due to reports of causing accidents and being a public nuisance at some locations. It's a world-wide phenomenon, and businesses can attract visitors by arranging to be a PokéStop, as (it has been reported) has the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London. The National Park Service has announced that there will be ranger-led Pokémon hunts on the National Mall.
367. Donald Sosin's campaign for "Sherlock Holmes: The Odessa Connection" (May 16 #3) has been successful: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) was screened, accompanied by a 45-piece orchestra, to thousands of people who gathered at Odessa's famous Potemkin Stairs <www.tinyurl.com/glrpx5>.
368. The second annual "International Sherlockian Summit of Societies" has been scheduled for Nov. 5 in Mount Vernon, Wash. Last year's summit had attendees from seven societies in the U.S. and Canada, and you can read a report on the summit at <www.tinyurl.com/hk5zc74>; details on this year's summit are available from David Haugen <dave@soundofthebaskervilles.com>.
369. Legendary Entertainment has bought the rights to the Pokémon computer game "Detective Pikachu" (Feb 16 #2), which has the title character in Sherlockian costume, and is preparing a live-action film franchise that's expected to start production next year.
370. Add Mark Caven to the list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes: he's seen at the end of "The Pall of LaPier" (the last episode of the ten-part Fox mini-series "Houdini and Doyle"); viewership numbers were low for the U.S. (2.6 million for the first episode, and 1.7 million for the last one). But if you enjoyed the series, you'll want to read interviews with cast and other talent at the Assignment X web-site <www.tinyurl.com/gr4vxmf>.

371. Jul 16 #5 Sherlockian.Net was launched in 1994 by Chris Redmond, and has long been a valuable resource for the growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians. Chris has announced that he plans to close the web-site by the end of the year, and would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to take over the web-site entirely or in part, and he welcomes suggestions about how its content might be preserved. You can visit Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site www.tinyurl.com/gvc7593 to learn more about Chris' web-site and listen to his recent interview on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog.
372. Jennie Paton reports that Trader Joe's recently ran a "name this product" challenge asking for an "original, descriptive, memorable" name for their new cookie-mix-in-a mason jar product (offering the winner \$100 and a case of the product when it becomes available later this year).
373. It's now official: the next season of the BBC's "Sherlock" will be broadcast in 2017 (according to the brief series 4 teaser at YouTube) <www.tinyurl.com/hmq63ub> (you get a brief glimpse of Toby Jones as Culverton Smith). And at a "Sherlock" panel at San Diego's Comic-Con Mark Gatiss, Amanda Abbington, and Benedict Cumberbatch revealed the three now-traditional code-word hint for the new season: Sherrinford, Smith, and Thatcher; the panel also included Stephen Moffat and Sue Vertue, but there are only three clues). Smith and Sherrinford seem obvious to devoted fans, who are serious puzzled by Thatcher.
374. Craigslist is a classified-advertisements web-site that began as an e-mail distribution list in San Francisco in 1995; it became web-based in 1996 and now covers 70 countries. Someone recently advertised a copy of THE ANNOYED SHERLOCK HOLMES, which turned out to be Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES.
375. There's a new on-line Cosplay Convention Center that's just the thing for people who enjoy thematic costume play <www.cosplayconventioncenter.com>: you can select a theme (one of them is Sherlock Holmes) and find what's going on where (Sherlockian cosplay is coming up in Seattle and Topeka).
376. Petr Kopl's THE LOST WORLD (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 120 pp., \$16.95) is an imaginative full-color graphic novel, with some amusing additions to Conan Doyle's story; it is part of Kopl's "Victoria Regina" series (which also includes three Sherlockian titles), and he has an attractive web-site at <www.petrkopl.cz>. Diane Gilbert Madsen's CRACKING THE CODE OF THE CANON: HOW SHERLOCK HOLMES MADE HIS DECISIONS (2016, 371 pp., \$18.95) is an interesting compilation of her research for THE CONAN DOYLE NOTES: THE SECRET OF JACK THE RIPPER (May 14 #7); it's a detailed analysis of the Canon, with discussion of the cases (and their outcomes), the crimes, the victims, the villains, and much more. MX's web-sites are at www.mxpublishing.com and at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

377. Jul 16 #6 Reported: James Lovegrove, author of three pastiches (SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES, SHERLOCK HOLMES: GODS OF WAR, and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE THINKING ENGINE) for Titan, is about to launch a new series he calls THE CTHULHU CASEBOOKS (SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHADWELL SHADOWS, SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LABYRINTH OF DEATH, and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEVIL'S DUST); the first title is due in November.
378. Jeannette Powers won Trader Joe's contest: her name for the new product was "It's Sedimentary, My Dear Cookie!" Details at <www.tinyurl.com/hyevbkl>.
379. Planning to sell the former Sunnyside Royal Hospital is being finalized, the Dundee Courier reported on July 13 <www.tinyurl.com/j2ym8p6>. Once the oldest and largest psychiatric hospital in Scotland, the facility closed in 2011 and has been vacant since then. Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle was a patient at Sunnyside in the 1880s, when he wrote and illustrated the journal that was eventually published by Michael Baker in 1978 as THE DOYLE DIARY: THE LAST GREAT CONAN DOYLE MYSTERY.
380. "'Largest Number' of Sherlock Holmes Versions Being Filmed Blamed for Disruptive London Fog This Week" was the headline on an amusing story at the Voice of Reason web-site in Nov. 2015 <www.tinyurl.com/jqxukg4>.
381. The Retired Beekeepers of Sussex, an all-inclusive Sherlockian society for members of the LBGTQ+ community, have now published their third Practical Handbook of Bee Culture (this time devoted to "Experience of Women"), with articles, fiction, poetry, and artwork. All three issues of the handbook are available for download at <www.retiredbeekeepers.tumblr.com>.
382. I hear of Sherlock everywhere, as someone once said: including Australia, where there's a company called Sherlock Holmes Sewing Machines; their web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesqld.com>.
383. The "Beast of Dartmoor" mystery may (or may not) have been solved: a report in the Daily Telegraph (July 22) suggests that the ferocious animal sometimes called the Beast of Exmoor or the Beast of Bodmin may not be a local myth. Circus owner Mary Chipperfield, after her zoo in Plymouth was forced to shut down, may have released three of her five pumas into the wild. But her husband, who now breeds white tigers in Spain, has denied that his late wife ever released any wild animals on Dartmoor. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/zzmmyyy>; thanks to Richard Mackintosh for the link.

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

385. Jul 16 #7 The Farnham Herald reported (July 24) www.tinyurl.com/zdmjegd that building work is now complete at Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home in Surrey. The David Forbes-Nixon Foundation spent £800,000 on the restoration, and the cost of the entire Stepping Stones School project was about £7 million. Norman Stromsoy, chief executive of the Foundation, said, "We wanted to make sure that the building can still be 'read' as it was in Conan Doyle's day, and to be as faithful to the original as we can."
386. The [Darlington] Northern Echo reported (July 7) that the York Theatre Royal publicized its production of a new musical "Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" with a contest for members of the public who were asked to submit photographs of pets wearing deerstalkers. The responses included Mark Gatiss' Labrador Bunsen; the story's at <www.tinyurl.com/zmefwb3>.
387. According to a review of the film "Crimson Peak" (2015), "the ghosts of 'Frankenstein' author Mary Shelley, Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle, horror fiction master Edgar Allan Poe, and many others not only shape Del Toro's imagination, but also could help you uncover hidden stories in your own life." The film is now available on cable television: while Conan Doyle is mentioned, he's not in the film as a ghost.
388. "Every time I check into a hotel, I sign my name Sherlock Holmes Evans. I like to see the clerk look over his shoulder and wonder why I didn't sign Smith." On July 22 the Massillon (Ohio) Independent quoted him in a brief item on native sons; he was born there in 1906 and was an attorney, humorist, actor, and circus performer. He titled his autobiography FATHER OWNED A CIRCUS, and explained that his father, an admirer of William Gillette, named his son after the actor's most famous role. Evans died in 1987.
389. James M. Nederlander died on July 25. He built the Nederlander Organization into a theatrical powerhouse that owns nine Broadway theaters and many more in other cities and countries; he produced or co-produced more than a hundred shows, and received a special Tony Award for lifetime achievement in 2004. When Glenda Jackson played Lady Macbeth at one of his theaters, he agreed with a friend that it was a great play, "but Jesus, it's talky." He also believed that "there are no bad theaters, only bad shows." Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" (starring Frank Langella) ran at the Nederlander Theatre for 136 performances in 1987.
390. Fred Taraba's MASTERS OF AMERICAN ILLUSTRATION: 41 ILLUSTRATORS & HOW THEY WORKED (2011) has been reprinted in a second edition (St. Louis: The Illustrated Press, 2016; 432 pp., \$60.00 plus \$9.00 shipping); it's a spectacular book, with interesting essays on the artists, accompanied by full-color illustrations, and two of the artists are of particular interest: Wladyslaw T. Benda illustrated "The Sussex Vampire" and non-Sherlockian writings by Conan Doyle, and Robert Fawcett provided artwork for pastiches (Arthur Whitaker's "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted" and the series written by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr), and the book includes one Sherlockian illustration by Fawcett. It's available on-line from the publisher, and copies signed by the author can be purchased from Taraba Illustration Art, Box 1438, Casper, WY 82602 <fred@tarabaillustrationart.com>.

391. Jul 16 #8 An appeal for assistance for Nick Utechin, who is working on a monograph on artists who provided jacket artwork for the British publisher John Murray, and is seeking information on Frank Marston, who did the jackets for Murray's editions of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. If you don't have those editions, you can see Marston's work in The Strand Magazine (Jan. 1930 and June 1930). And if you have any personal information about Marston (including birth/death dates), please contact Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.
392. Theater news: a new musical version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at the York Theatre Royal through Aug. 27 www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk; there's a link at the web-site to two short rehearsal videos.
393. The Minnesota Fringe in Minneapolis <www.fringefestival.org> has two plays of interest on its schedule: Neil Gaiman's "A Study in Emerald" at Intermedia Arts, Aug. 5-13; as well as "And to Think That I Saw It at 221B Baker's Street" (by John Newstrom and Tim Wick) at the Southern Theatre, Aug. 6-14.
394. Opera Tennessee will present Thomas Whitman's opera "A Scandal in Bohemia" (with libretto by Nathalie Anderson) at the Barking Legs Theater in Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 11-14 <www.barkinglegs.org>.
395. Fired Up Theatre is touring their production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by Mal Dewhirst and Simon Quinn) in Suffolk, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, and Lancashire, from Aug. 12 through Dec. 2; details at <www.fireduptheatre.co.uk>.
396. Kristen Brewer's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Detective and the Doctor" is scheduled at the Black Box Theatre at the Trust Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, Pa., Aug. 25-Sept. 11 <www.lancastertrust.com>.
397. Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" has been scheduled at the Pulse Opera House in Warren, Ind., Sept. 9-25; web-site at <www.pulseoperahouse.org>.
398. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Lakewood Playhouse in Lakewood, Wash., Sept. 9-Oct. 9 <www.lakewoodplayhouse.org>; also at the Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples, Fla., Feb. 11-Mar. 12, 2017 <www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org>.
399. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be presented by Autumn Nights at the Plaza at Ehlers Event Center in Buena Park, Calif., Sept. 16-24 <www.buenapark.com/index.aspx?page=556>.
400. "Sherlock Holmes and the Unrecorded Case (by Special Request) of the Electric Lady's Bicycle Protector and the Consequences Thereof Including World War I" (a new play by Robert Fridjhon) will be performed at the Studio Theatre in Montecasino, Johannesburg, Nov. 30-Jan. 2017; their web-site's at <www.pietertoerien.co.za>.

401. Aug 16 #1 Steve Mason has announced an interactive map, developed by his son Rusty, showing all of the world's active geographical Sherlockian societies, with links to the web-sites of societies that have them; it's readily available at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hvt37sx>.
402. Sherry Thomas, an established writer of historical romances, has launched a new "Lady Sherlock" series with A STUDY IN SCARLET WOMEN (New York: Berkley Books, 2016; 323 pp., \$15.00); it's an exciting book, with an interesting mystery and complicated characters, and a thoroughly imaginative (and different) Holmes. It's nice to know that there will be sequel, scheduled for 2017, and the author's web-site is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.
403. "If Sherlock Holmes Had Investigated the Bible..." is the title of a lecture by Rev. Stuart Lamont, who will speak at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh on Oct. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/zqm6sxf>; the center is the home of the Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists.

404. Repeating, because the link in the previous issue (Jul 16 #3) was broken: Big Chief Studios, which produced a set of licensed 1:6-scale figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman last year (Apr 15 #5), is going to issue a new set that shows them in costume from "The Abominable Bride"; they're due for release next March, but you can pre-order them now (£189.99 each <www.tinyurl.com/gpthl25>).
 405. Jennie Paton spotted Hive Riot <www.hivriot.com>, described as "a synthy, dance-fueled party hosted by the electric chemistry that is Dustin Gledhill and Mindy Gledhill." Go to Youtube <www.youtube.com> and search for [hive riot sherlock] to watch their Sherlockian music video.
 406. And, while you're at YouTube, you can also watch an imaginative use of the theme music from the BBC's "Sherlock" <www.tinyurl.com/zlqqkw4>.
 407. Susan Dahlinger reports that the new "Ghostbusters" film is (tangentially) Sherlockian: in the major fight scene, there's a big billboard in the background advertising plays running on Broadway, and one of them is the musical "Baker Street".
 408. Yuichi Hirayama is the web-master for the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club, which is available in English as well as Japanese <www.holmesjapan.jp>.
 409. The Voice of America has a "Learning English" blog, and their topic on July 30 was "smoke" (and of course it was nice to see that they mentioned Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes); you can read (and listen to) the blog at <www.tinyurl.com/jo36kya>.
 410. The television mini-series "Houdini and Doyle" has been canceled by Fox; as noted earlier (Mar 16 #3), Steve Mangan, who played Conan Doyle, shaved off his Magnum-style moustache the day shooting ended, but since he had signed a five-year option for the series obviously was prepared to grow it again. He's now back to playing one of the leads in the Showtime/BBC series "Episodes" (which launched in 2011 and will conclude in 2017).
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411. Aug 16 #2 ECHOES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus Books, 2016; 348 pp., \$24.95), is the third in their series of anthologies of "stories inspired by the Holmes Canon," and it's a fine companion to their A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (Aug 11 #2) and IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Oct 14 #1); they have again rounded up excellent authors and artists whose contributions demonstrate the many and imaginative ways in which one can enter the world of Sherlock Holmes. You can watch Les and Laurie talk about IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES at the Poisoned Pen bookstore (in Scottsdale, Ariz.) in a 57-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/z7vdwpl>.
 412. The Mysterious Bookshop will be publishing its own limited edition of ECHOES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, signed by the editors and all of the contributors and in a special binding; \$275 for one of the 25 lettered copies, and \$150 for one of the 60 copies <www.tinyurl.com/h7h33dn>.
 413. One of the nice Christmas presents I received last year was a donation to Apopo by my sister-in-law Kelly Blau. Apopo <www.apopo.org> trains African giant pouched rats to sniff out unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off mines, which can then be disarmed); my giant rat, appropriately named Sumatra, has been trained to identify TNT, and has recently identified its first (deactivated) anti-personnel mine (that's Sumatra in the photograph). When its training is completed, Sumatra will set to work on the real thing. There's more about the interesting program in Bec Crew's blog by Bec Crew at the Scientific American web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ptzrmkh>.
 414. "Sherlock Holmes Is Based on a Real Guy (Who Was Even Cooler), according to a 2-minute animation at YouTube <www.youtube.com/knfew93>; and no, the real guy (who was even cooler) wasn't Joseph Bell.
 415. Alexander Orlov has noted an interesting six-minute enhanced video of film taken in Edwardian Britain <www.tinyurl.com/nbqo64r>; you get to see what Holmes and Watson actually saw, rather than what we see in the films and on television.
 416. Further to the mention of the Cosplay Convention Center (Jul 16 #5), if you are planning an event you are welcome to use their "contact us" button to get your event listed <www.cosplayconventioncenter.com>.
 417. Those who attended "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the conference at the University of Minnesota) had a chance to see the delightful exhibition of treasures from the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Elmer L. Anderson Library, which runs through Sept. 30. Those who didn't attend the conference can watch a four-minute video tour narrated by Darren Terpstra (who designed the exhibition) and Tim Johnson (curator of the collections) <www.tinyurl.com/hux82l5>.
 418. Tim's blog "Special & Rare on a Stick" also is of interest: he blogged in 2015 about his discovery that Wind Cave (in Wind Cave National Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota) has a room called Baker Street, and his continuing attempt to determine whether the name honors the street where Sherlock Holmes lived <www.tinyurl.com/hylhc3c>.
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419. Aug 16 #3 "No one been fatally stung by the Lion's Mane in the UK, apart from in a Sherlock Holmes story," according to Peter Richardson (head of biodiversity and fisheries at the Marine Conservation Society; he was interviewed for a BBC News story on "How Dangerous are Britain's Jellyfish?" <www.bbcnews.com/news/uk-scotland-36922998>. "Not very," he said. As far as he is aware, no one has ever died from a jellyfish sting in the UK--but plenty have had a nasty shock.
 420. Fans of the Frogwares computer game "Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Daughter" will enjoy John-Paul Jones' long interview with the Ukrainian developer of the game PlayStation Universe (Aug. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/zkfq82q>. The next game from Frogwares will be "The Sinking City" (not Sherlockian, but rather inspired by H. P. Lovecraft).
 421. Peter Melonas has been creating interesting Sherlockian (and other) artwork since the 1980s, and his offers (at eBay) include five Sherlockian prints <www.tinyurl.com/zwhsrhw>.
 422. "Have you ever thought of putting a collection of Sherlock Holmes-related books together but thought it might be too daunting or too expensive?" Otto Penzler asks. The Mysterious Bookshop recently bought three collections, and is offering to send you 500 books for \$5,000. All different, all first editions, and all in fine collectors' condition, combining critical works, studies, parodies, and pastiches; Otto chooses the books, and pays for the shipping <ottopenzler@mysteriousbookshop.com>.
 423. "Cimarron Strip" was a 90-minute Western series broadcast by CBS-TV at the end of the 1960s (when networks still aired 90-minute series); the episode "Knife in the Darkness" (1968) was written by Harlan Ellison, and there's a mention of Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/jlo6oba>. Thanks to Brenda Rossini for this addition to the list of slightly Doylean television.
 424. Alan Rettig has reported on "a proper Sherlockian breakfast" served at The Store in Staunton, Va. Their special is Eggs Cumberbatch, and you'll find the details at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>.
 425. Further to the report (Jul 16 #4) on the new score for William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), written by Donald Sosin for a 45-piece orchestra and performed at a screening on Odessa's famous Potemkin Stairs for a crowd estimated by some at 10,000 and by others at 15,000: Russell Merritt notes a 2-minute video showing what the performance was like; it's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jr8qu9k>.
 426. The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities in Cape May, N.J., will hold its next Sherlock Holmes Weekends on Nov. 4-6, featuring a new three-day mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Melpomene's Mask"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/h2bc4j4>.

427. Peggy Perdue has the Toronto Public Library hard at work digitizing photographs from the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection and making them available online; you can see some of them now, and there are many more to come. Just go to <www.torontopubliclibrary.ca> and search for [arthur conan doyle] and click on "Images" in the left-hand column.
428. Aug 16 #4 Conan Doyle has long been suggested as the perpetrator of the Piltdown Man hoax, despite the absence of any persuasive evidence, and the search for the culprit continues. New research by Isabella De Groote, a paleoanthropologist at Liverpool John Moores University, and a team of scientists who used modern technology to analyze the bones, has led to the conclusion that Charles Dawson, the amateur geologist who made the discovery in 1912, was responsible for the hoax. There is a story in Science magazine (Aug. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/hz3w49x>, with a link to their full report in Royal Society Open Science.
429. In other news (well, not really news): The Piltdown Men, a 1960s rock-and- roll instrumental studio group, recorded songs that included "Brontosaurus Stomp" and "Piltdown Rides Again" (which you can hear at <www.youtube.com>).
430. THE YALE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS, edited by Fred R. Shapiro (Dec 06 #1), is an important and delightful reference work, and his search for reliable sources continues. Mark Peters' article on "The Plague of Incorrect Quotation" in the Boston Globe (Aug. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/hcx3lh5> is an interesting account of some of Shapiro's new discoveries. And for the latest update on the search for "Elementary, my dear Watson", consult the Quote Investigator web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zyrl2mo>.
431. Willy Werby reports interesting vintage photographs of London fog and smog (from 1909 to 1959) at <www.tinyurl.com/j282yet>; you can see what Holmes and Watson saw (or couldn't see through).
432. Quite a while back (Jul 08 #3) Columbia Pictures announced plans to film a comedy that would star Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson. "Just the idea of Sacha and Will as Sherlock Holmes and Watson makes us laugh," Columbia co-president Matt Tolach told Variety (July 1), "Sacha and Will are two of the funniest and most talented guys on the planet, and having them take on these two iconic characters is frankly hilarious." The film wound up in what is politely described as "development hell," but it's alive again, tentatively titled "Holmes and Watson" and starring Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson. According to Deadline Hollywood (Aug. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/j2vo2tx>, production is planned to start after Thanksgiving.
433. A reminder that the "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze, organized by the Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street will be held at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J., on Sept. 18. Contact Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net> for more information.
434. And the 57th annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course in Chicago will be held on Oct. 22. Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net> is the contact for more information.
435. TERROR LIES UNDERGROUND, by Greg Jameson (London: Artellus, 2016; 303 pp., £2.31) is the first in his "The Diogenes Cases" e-book series; set during the Great Hiatus, the novel features surgeon Jacob Wrayburn, American nurse Faith Hobson, and Mycroft Holmes in a desperate struggle against terrorists who want to subvert the government (the Diogenes Club, as so often is the case in pastiches, is far more than merely a club for unsocial members).
436. Aug 16 #5 THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: PART IV--2016 ANNUAL (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 473 pp., \$24.95) is the latest in the series edited by David Marcum, and it is an excellent companion to the first three volumes (Feb 16 #7), with almost two dozen traditional pastiches, a poetic toast, and a radio script; the authors, some old hands at the game, and some new to it, maintain the high quality of the series, and it's nice news indeed that there are more volumes to come. MX's web-sites are at <www.mypublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
437. Also from MX: Daniel D. Victor's SEVENTEEN MINUTES TO BAKER STREET (2016; 221 pp., \$14.95) opens with an amusing scene: Sherlock Holmes in a state of shock after reading Mark Twain's THE DOUBLE-BARRELLED DETECTIVE STORY; it turns out that Samuel Clemens also was involved in solving "The Problem of Thor Bridge" (a case that's imaginatively different from the one described by Watson). SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE NAUTILUS ADVENTURE, by Joseph W. Svec III and Lidia B. Svec (2016; 187 pp., \$9.95) also has an intriguing opening: a new client explains that he is Captain Nemo and hopes that Holmes can find the missing Jules Verne; it's the second volume in a "missing authors" series (the next volume will involve Sir Percival and Alfred, Lord Tennyson).
438. And there's more: THE MYSTERY OF THE SCARLET HOMES OF SHERLOCK, by Richard Krevolin and John Raffensperger (2016; 294 pp., \$14.95), is the first volume of their "Lost Diaries of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle"; it is set in 1878, when Joseph Bell and his medical assistant travel to Chicago to investigate a series of mysterious murders and foil a nefarious plot against President Hayes. THE BIRD AND THE BUDDHA, by A. S. Croyle (2016; 282 pp., \$16.95), is the second in her "Before Watson" series; Dr. Poppy Stamford is now in practice in London and again meets Sherlock Holmes, who has graduated from Oxford and is beginning his career as a consulting detective, and they are still involved both in solving mysteries and in avoiding romantic entanglement with each other. E. A. (Bud) Livingston's SOME OF MY FAVOURITE SHERLOCKIAN THINGS (2016; 193 pp., \$14.95) is aptly subtitled "a compendium of pawky and outre monographs, toasts, and whatnots," and he has investigated both usual and unusual aspects of the Canon.
439. Jeffrey Montgomery ("Inspector Montgomery") died on July 18. A life-long Detroit, he worked in public relations and in 1984 became heavily engaged in LGBT advocacy, for which he received many awards and honors, including a special tribute from the Governor of Michigan in 2003. Jeff was an active member of The Amateur Mendicants in the 1970s and 1980s, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.
440. Nominations for this year's Beacon Award, offered by The Beacon Society to recognize educational activities that expose young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories, are due by Nov. 15; details at <www.tinyurl.com/jd5xzdn>.
441. The Hillywood Show web-site's "Sherlock Parody" went viral this month, and you can view it at <www.thehillywoodshow.com>, along with 63 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage, and 30 minutes of Sherlock's video diary. Hilly Hindi and Hannah Hindi as Holmes and Watson, and the parody also has cameos appearances by Steven and Louis Moffat. You can read the lyrics to the parody at <www.tinyurl.com/hx8batx>.
442. Aug 16 #6 The second "Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention" will be held in London on Sept. 23-26 <www.sherlocked.com>, and the first "Sherlocked USA" convention has been announced for Los Angeles on May 26-28, 2017 <www.sherlockedusa.com>; the conventions are organized in association with Hartwood Films (the production company for "Sherlock"). The prices for the event in Los Angeles range from \$125 (for a standard ticket) to \$2,995 (for a VIP ticket), and it will feature guest appearances, photo shoots, a vendors hall, and screen-used sets, props, and costumes on view for the first time outside the U.K.
443. "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Scotland's First Movie Star" was the headline in a story in the Glasgow Daily Record and Sunday Mail (Aug. 28), offering new details about an actor who made 300 movies after leaving Glasgow in 1919, acting in small parts on Broadway, and then moving to

- Hollywood to launch a film in 1925 <www.tinyurl.com/z2ogjn5>. The actor was Mary Gordon, who played a memorable Mrs. Hudson in many of the Basil Rathbone films.
444. Upcoming theater: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) is scheduled by the Chapin Theatre Company at the Harbison Theatre in Irmo, S.C., Sept. 9-18 <www.chapintheatre.org>.
445. Synergy Theater will perform "The Improvised Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" at the Leshner Center for the Performing Arts in Walnut Creek, Calif., Sept. 22-24 <www.lesherartscenter.org>.
446. F. Andrew Leslie's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Long Beach Playhouse in Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 24-Oct. 22; the web-site is at <www.lbplayhouse.org>.
447. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be produced at the Church Hill Theatre in Church Hill, Md., Nov. 4-20 <www.churchhilltheatre.org>.
448. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Spreckels Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park, Calif., Sept. 16-Oct. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/ze9zc9r>. And at the Ivy Tech John Waldron Auditorium in Bloomington, Ind., Sept. 23-Oct. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/zhquvb6>; at the Allen Playhouse in Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 27-Feb. 12 <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>; and at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre in Edmonton, Alta., from Feb. 7 through Apr. 2 <www.mayfieldtheatre.ca>. The play also is touring in British Columbia <www.artsclub.com/shows/on-tour>.
449. Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (based on the series of graphic novels by Tony Lee and Eric Boulton) will be presented by the Garden Suburb Theatre at the Lund Theatre in London, Feb. 14 to 19 <www.gardensuburbtheatre.co.uk>.
450. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 7-30, 2017 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.
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451. Sep 16 #1 "Of all 'historical' liars the writer of this book takes the cake. To anyone who knows the facts Conan Doyle's book looks more like one of his novels than a serious account of what actually took place. 'Fairy Photos' seem more in his line." That's what Francis William Reitz (who was State Secretary of the South African Republic from 1898 to 1902) wrote in his heavily-annotated copy of Conan Doyle's THE GREAT BOER WAR. The book went to auction at Stephan Welz & Co. in Johannesburg on Aug. 30, with an estimate of R1,500-R3,000 (about \$108-\$215); it sold for R5,000 (\$346).
452. The BBC's "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" has won two Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences: for outstanding television movie and for outstanding special visual effects in a supporting role. The next season of the series is scheduled for broadcast in 2017.
453. In other news from the Emmy Awards, Amanda Abbington (who joined Sue Vertue Beryl Vertue, and Stephen Moffat to accept the television-movie award for "Sherlock") reported on Twitter that when she returned to her seat she discovered that "some bastard had nicked my purse from under my seat."
454. In case someone offers to sell you a page from the manuscript of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: it might be hot merchandise, stolen in 2009 from the collection of the late David S. Light. Randall Stock has more information on this at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jmrgt2o>; the page is one of only a dozen known pages to be privately held, and the FBI is seeking assistance in recovering the page.
455. "Is Sherlock Holmes Rich?" was a question asked at the web-site Quora, and Kynan Eng provided an answer: to live in modern London, Holmes would need a before-tax income of £12,828 per month to live on his own. Read all about it at <www.quora.com/Is-Sherlock-Holmes-rich>.
456. The Wolfe Pack (The Official Nero Wolfe Society) was founded in 1978 and is still going strong, and of course has a journal (The Gazette), a web-site <www.nerowolfe.org> and a presence on social media (although one does wonder what Wolfe would have thought of the Internet); the web-site search engine makes it easy to find material related to Holmes and Conan Doyle, in The Gazette and elsewhere. Needless to say, due attention is paid to the long-held (by some) belief that Nero Wolfe was the son of Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler.
457. "Sherlock Holmes and the Long Island Cave Mystery" is the title of a "Book & Bottle" series lecture scheduled by Terry Hunt at Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead, N.Y., on Oct. 27. The Long Island cave mystery is mentioned in "The Red Circle", and Sherlockian scholars have noted for many years that there are no caves on Long Island, but Steve Doyle reported in 2006 in MANDATE FOR MURDER (the Baker Street Irregulars manuscript series volume on the story) that there was indeed a cave mystery near Islip in 1891, involving a series of underground bunkers described in period newspapers as caves; Terry will reveal more information about the mystery, including his identification of the site where the Long Island caves were located <www.suffolkcountyhistoricalsociety.org>.
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458. Sep 16 #2 "Treasure Island, Beau Geste, all of Sherlock Holmes novels & stories, and a book about newspaper people called My Last Million Readers," was Charles Schulz's response to Evelyn B. Byrne in a letter, on his personal stationery that showed Charlie Brown and Snoopy, that was not published in ATTACKS OF TASTE (1971), edited by Byrne and Otto M. Penzler. The letter went to auction at University Archives on Aug. 23 (estimated at \$200-\$300), but did not make the reserve.
459. Those who fondly remember Basil of Baker Street (aka The Great Mouse Detective) will be glad to hear that he hasn't been forgotten by Disney: Sonia Fetherston notes that the Disney Store <www.tinyurl.com/hww5ekj> is offering an attractive Christmas tree ornament that shows Basil and Dawson (\$16.95), and it can be personalized for an additional \$5.95.
460. Les Klinger notes a Kickstarter project for Lucy Keifer's "Sherlock Holmes and Moriarty's Web" (a collaborative crime-solving game played on a board of moving tiles); details at <www.tinyurl.com/huw2mx4>.
461. Randall Stock reports an interesting leaflet produced by Dartmoor National Park: "The Hound of the Baskervilles Trail" is a helpful guide for a six-mile walk through the Dartmoor of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and it's available for £1.50 at the park's visitor center. You can see a two-page sample from the guide at <www.tinyurl.com/jmhr9gt>.
462. "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" (the Baker Street Irregulars' conference held in Chautauqua this month) was a delightful gathering, with a program that included preview excerpts from Jeffrey Hatcher's new play "Holmes and Watson" (due to premiere in Arizona next spring), performed without rehearsal by members of the audience, a centennial screening of William Gillette's silent film "Sherlock Holmes" with Philip Carli providing live piano accompaniment, and the first-ever screening in America of three of Eille Norwood's silent shorts: "The Stockbroker's Clerk" and "The Musgrave Ritual" (1922), and "The Crooked Man" (1923), also with piano accompaniment by Philip Carli.
463. It was wonderful to see Norwood's films; he received high praise from Conan Doyle, and filmed 47 stories from the Canon. There was more films news at the conference: Russell Merritt reported on the recent discovery of a copy of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929), the last silent film based on the Canon; it was filmed in Germany and directed by Richard Oswald, with an international cast that included Carlyle Blackwell as Holmes and Georges Seroff as Watson. The film will be restored, and Russell expects the film to be available for viewing by 2020.
464. Dan Stashower has discovered Sherlock Shaving Soap (a tallow shaving soap with a warm tobacco-based scent, blended with toasted caramel, black pepper, and moist dirt, finished nicely with a touch of leather, moss, mandarin, honey, and rose, available from the Chiseled Face Groomatorium

- (\$12.99 for 4 ounces) <www.chiseledface.com>. It's homemade in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., and the tin has Sherlockian artwork; the company has noted in the past that "due to concerns from members of our military and government services, we no longer use hempseed oil in this product."
465. Sep 16 #3 "Political Correctness Ruins Great Literature" was the headline on a letter in the Chicago Tribune (Aug. 10), reported by Janice Weiner in The Scotland Yarders' News-Gazette; the letter suggested that "given political correctness, more people are reacting to great literature like simple-minded computer programs designed to screen out offensive elements," and as one of the examples cited THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: "if the heroine gets tied up and rescued...the story must be perpetuating sexist stereotypes."
466. Gene Wilder died on Aug. 28. He was an actor, screenwriter, novelist, and director, and once said that he directed "in order to protect what I wrote, which I wrote in order to act," and his specialty was combining comedy and tragedy. He wrote and directed the film "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), in which he also starred as Sigerson Holmes.
467. Jim Hawkins, recently at the Reno-Lake Tahoe airport, spotted a slot machine that features Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law; there's a 4-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j72gmnz>.
468. The Chapterhouse Theatre Company debuted a touring production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by Laura Turner) at Wentworth Castle Gardens in Barnsley in 2013, and they have continued to perform the play in Great Britain and Ireland. And now much farther afield: they will tour China in October and November, and you can buy tickets at <en.damai.cn/tickets_106265>. Chapterhouse has a web-site at <www.chapterhouse.org>.
469. The MacArthur Fellows Program (sometimes called the Genius Grants) has made annual grants (now \$625,000 paid over five years in quarterly installments) as investments in people's originality, insight, and potential, and there have been three fellowships awarded over the years to people with Sherlockian or Doylean connections.
470. Paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould (1981) wrote a letter to the magazine Science 83 responding to an article by John Hathaway Winslow and Alfred Meyer that accused Conan Doyle of perpetrating the Piltdown hoax, and described their article as "an evidence-free argument based on speculations about motive." He also enjoyed Sherlockian films, and in THE FLAMINGO'S SMILE: REFLECTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY (1985) described the Universal series as "the unnumberable, yet wonderful, Rathbone-Bruce anachronisms that pit Holmes against Hitler and assorted enemies."
471. Magician James Randi (1986), who has followed the path blazed by Houdini in exposing fake mediums and psychics, going after them with great glee, had in his book FLIM-FLAM!: PSYCHICS, ESP, UNICORNS AND OTHER DELUSIONS (1982) a chapter on Conan Doyle and "Fairies at the Foot of the Garden".
472. And rare book preservationist Terry Belanger (2005) was the youngest member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches when he came a meeting with a Sherlockian jack o'lantern. His article "Travels with a Pumpkin" appeared in the Baker Street Journal (Mar. 1967), and he became a member of The Baker Irregulars ("Cartwright") in 1968.
473. Sep 16 #4 Many newspapers publish news from the past: the Traverse City Record-Eagle's "110 Years Ago" for May 25 last year noted that the paper was going to publish "the greatest and most engaging feature in fiction" (the thirteen mysteries in THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, to which the paper had exclusive publication rights in its section of Michigan); the paper also reported that the American Drug Store specialized in a Chop Suey Sundae, and warned bicyclists that they were allowed to ride the side-walks of the city from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. and at no other time (the reason for that warning likely was a horrible accident caused by a bicyclist who was going at least ten miles an hour when he attempted to pass a group of young ladies on the sidewalk on Washington Street. If you'd like to know what else was going on in town then, go to <www.tinyurl.com/ohuswpl>.
474. The Haslemere Herald <www.tinyurl.com/gr2wmc> has reported that Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, is now open as the new Stepping Stones senior school, after two years of restoration and renovation by David Forbes-Nixon's Charitable Foundation; the opening included the unveiling of a blue plaque celebrating Conan Doyle's time at Undershaw, and the photograph shows Stepping Stones school head Melissa Farnham, foundation chairman David Forbes-Nixon, Haslemere mayor Sahran Abeyesundara, Conan Doyle's grand-nephew Richard Doyle, and the plaque. You can see many more images from the opening at the web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London <www.tinyurl.com/hudc4cj>.
475. Luke Benjamin Kuhns' WELCOME TO UNDERSHAW (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 107 pp., \$28.95 hardbound) is subtitled as "a brief history of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: the man who created Sherlock Holmes" and offers a well-illustrated examination of Conan Doyle's early life, the history of the house, and an interesting exploration of what happened while he was living there. It's nicely done indeed, and will be welcomed by anyone who has visited or plans to visit Undershaw. The MX web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
476. The new season of "Elementary" (starring Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu) begins on CBS-TV on Oct. 2, and by the end of the fifth series Miller and Liu will have played Holmes and Watson in 120 programs, more than any pair of actors other than Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce (15 films and 220 episodes on radio). That 15 is not a misprint; the real fans will easily be able to name the 15th film.
477. If you visited The Sherlock Holmes pub in London in the distant past, you may remember an earlier version of the pub sign, which is now available for bidding at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/z4wd5x3>. Bidding started at £195 and the auction ends on Oct. 19.
478. Mary Ann Madden died on July 26. She presided over the New York Magazine Competition for more than 30 years, creating word-play challenges that attracted as many as 9,000 responses. In one of her competitions she challenged competitors to sully by anagram one familiar name of fact or fiction and provide for it a brief description similarly altered by a one-word jumble. The examples she offered included: "Sherlock Sholem--Israeli detective in relentless pursuit of his nemesis, Professor Yom Tirra."
479. Sep 16 #5 If you're in or near Princeton, N.J.: B.J. Rahn, author of THE REAL WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Feb 15 #5) will be speaking at the Princeton branch of the English-Speaking Union on Jan. 17 on "how the Sherlock Holmes stories help us understand crime and detection in the Victorian era; details on the event are at <www.esuus.org/princeton>.
480. "Shall We Date? Guard Me, Sherlock!" is a Japanese anime social-based dating sim game just released by NTT Solmare <www.shallwedate.jp/en>. There was a report on the Business Wire on Sept. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/grq4nsf>, and there is a 32-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j24j9g6>.
481. This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London features a full-color reproduction of a Christmas issue of The Strand Magazine (Dec. 1913, which contained "The Dying Detective"); \$20.00 postpaid for a packet of ten cards and envelopes <www.tinyurl.com/hhegqhx>.
482. Tom Moses is selling some of his Sherlockian books, and offers a sales list by e-mail <tomjmoses@yahoo.com>.
483. "Holmes and Watson 1916-2016" is an imaginative video tribute tied to the song "Something Good (Will Come from That)" <www.vimeo.com/171431158> that makes good use of clips from a wide variety of Sherlockian film and television. And there's a link to a cheat-sheet, in case you don't recognize all the sources.

484. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) honored the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Fadó Irish Pub in Denver on Sept. 28, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. We were welcomed by members of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients, and our next meetings will be on Apr. 5, 2017, in Houston, and Oct. 25 in Seattle.
485. Sarah Andrews, one of our members, received this year's Presidential Medal from the GSA, in recognition of her "outstanding support of the geosciences." Praised as an "author, pilot, artist, and teacher," she's the author of twelve novels about geologist-turned detective Em Hansen; Sarah has described the novels as "geology with a plot," and she has an excellent web-site at <www.sarahandrews.net>.
486. One of the things that geologists discuss at their conferences is the consequences of climate change and global warming: geologists don't doubt that the earth is warming (in Victorian times explorers died in vain attempts to find an ice-free Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific across the top of North America, but it's now possible to make the trip in comfort on tourist cruises). New York magazine had an excellent article by Andrew Rice this month <www.tinyurl.com/zjxtknu> discussing "New York in the not-so-distant future" (although the Yale Club is not mentioned in the article, it's likely to be high and dry, but difficult to reach by train or subway).
487. The BBC is continuing its publicity campaign for the new season of "Sherlock" and revealed this month that the first two episodes will be "The Six Thatchers" and "The Lying Detective" (the on-line personal blog of Dr. John H. Watson <www.tinyurl.com/j8q3sqd> explains the six Thatchers).

488. Sep 16 #6 Jeans for Genes Day was celebrated in Britain on Sept. 23, in aid of Genetic Orders UK, in a partnership with Gap, and iconic statues in London were dressed in denim. The statue of Sherlock Holmes near Baker Street Station was outfitted with an attractive denim cape, and you can see it in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/zqcswh6>.
489. And, as usual, some theater news: Rick White's "Sherlock Holmes: The Whitechapel Murders" is running at the Way Off Broadway Community Players in Leander, Tex., through Oct. 15 <www.wobcp.org>.
490. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at at the Depot Theater Company in Dodge City, Kans., Oct. 7-22; web-site at <www.depotheaterco.com>; and at the Old Opera House in Charles Town, W.Va., Oct. 14-23 <www.oldoperahouse.org>; and at the Glendale Center Theatre in Glendale, Calif., Oct. 14-Nov. 19 <www.glendalecentertheatre.com>.
491. The East Haddam Stage Company tour of the William Gillette radio script for "The Speckled Band" (1930) will include a performance on Oct. 14 at Ventfort Hall, the Gilded Age house museum in Lenox, Mass. <www.gildedage.org>, built as their summer home by George and Sarah Morgan (she was the sister of J. Pierpont Morgan).
492. "The Baker Street Irregulars" (a new play written by Dominic Pope and David Redstone) is due at the Redannick Theatre in Truro, Cornwall, on Oct. 20-22 <www.taods.co.uk>.
493. "The 21st Century Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is a monthly series improvised and performed by Brian Paul and Sam Bennett at the Players' Ring in Portsmouth, N.H., from Oct. 20 to June 15 <www.playersring.org>.
494. John Charles Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Ouachita Little Theater in Mena, Ark., from Oct. 21 to Oct. 30 <www.ouachitalittletheater.org>.
495. Alice Coghlan's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed by Wonderland Productions at Kildare Street Hotel in Dublin, Oct. 24-Nov. 24 <www.wonderlandtheatre.com>.
496. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be presented by the Montgomery Playhouse and Arts on the Green at the Arts Barn in Gaithersburg, Md., Nov. 4-20 <www.tinyurl.com>.
497. Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Capitol Theatre in Waterloo, Ill., Nov. 4-13 <www.masctheatre.org>.
498. The Lanikai Mortgage Players (who are also known as Those Strange People in the Park) will present "Sherlock Holms and the Case of the Vanishing Swain, or Alimentary, My Dear Watson" at the Nelson and Lucille Shreve Theater in the Lanikai Community Center on Oahu, Hawaii, Nov. 4-13; their web-site is at <www.lanikaimortgageplayers.org>.

499. Oct 16 #1 Congratulations to David Stuart Davies on his invitation to join the Detection Club, founded in 1930 and the oldest society for British mystery writers; there's a sinister but tongue-in-cheek initiation ceremony, and David chose lines from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as his motto; he's a prolific author of Sherlockian pastiches and plays, and has written books on Sherlock Holmes in film and on Jeremy Brett, and will contribute a Sherlock Holmes story to an upcoming Detection Club anthology.
500. The Detection Club was founded by Anthony Berkeley Cox in 1930, with support from G. K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers, and others, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was asked to become the Club's Honorary President; unfortunately his health was poor, and he had to decline the invitation.
501. Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (Oct 15 #5), which previously won an Edgar (best biographical/critical) from the Mystery Writers of America, and an Agatha (best non-fiction) from Malice Domestic, has also won a Macavity Award (best critical/biographical) from Mystery Readers International (announced last month at Bouchercon in New Orleans).
502. Bouchercon 2017 will be in Toronto ("Passport to Murder") Oct. 12-15, 2017; followed by Saint Petersburg ("Crime in the Sunshine"), Sept. 13-16, 2018; Dallas ("Denim, Diamonds and Death") Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2019; and Sacramento ("Where Murder is a Capitol Crime"), Oct. 15-18, 2020. Bouchercon is the largest gathering of mystery authors and readers, and there's (almost) always a Sherlockian panel; this year in New Orleans Les Klinger was the moderator for "Wherefore and Why: Sherlock Holmes" (with Lois Gresh, Michael Robertson, Bonnie MacBird, Terence Faherty, and Laura Caldwell).
503. There are a few copies available of the 22-page printed program for The Baker Street Irregulars' conference in Chautauqua, last month, for those who weren't able to attend the gathering; there are articles and illustrations, and "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" can be bought (\$10.00 plus shipping at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/sherlock2016p.html>).
504. Upcoming in Florida: Diane Gilbert Madsen will be appearing at Copperfish Books in Punta Gorda, Fla., on Nov. 3, as part of the city's fine arts festival, speaking about her latest book CRACKING THE CODE OF THE CANON: HOW SHERLOCK MADE HIS DECISIONS (Jul 16 #5) <www.copperfishbooks.com>.
505. The web-site Bustle had a story on Sept. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/hrcnl5z> about the Ghost Club, a paranormal investigation and research organization that was founded in London in 1862 and widely believed to be the oldest such organization in the world; the article is about Charles Dickens, a dedicated ghost hunter, but Conan Doyle also was a member.
506. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues to add podcasts to its web-site, and one of them is Steve Hockensmith and Michael Wiltrout reading Steve's "Dear Dr. Watson" (from the Feb. 2007 issue). Another is a dramatization of Edward D. Hoch's "The Problem of the Covered Bridge" (Dec. 1974); there is an appropriate Sherlockian allusion in the story. There are 85 podcasts now, with more to come <www.themysteryplace.com/eqmm>.

507. Oct 16 #2 Spotted by Jennie Paton at YouTube: "Whitlock: A Study in Starlet" (described as "a modern-day web-series adaptation of Sherlock Holmes that follows cantankerous consulting detective Sophie Whitlock and her New-Agey assistant Fawn Watkins as they solve crimes in sunny, sordid L.A."); there are five episodes beginning at www.tinyurl.com/jc2r2kp with a total of 31 minutes. It's also offered at Amazon (\$9.99) as a playonly DVD that may not run on all DVD devices.
508. Warren Murphy died on Sept. 4, 2015. Best-known for his series about "The Destroyer", he also wrote a short story "Highly Irregular on Baker Street", which starred P.I. Devlin Tracy investigating a murder at the present-day 221B Baker Street; it was published in THE PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA PRESENT MYSTERY STREET: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY PWA ANTHOLOGY (2001).
509. "A planet might as well leave its orbit," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Bruce-Partington Plans"), adding that "Jupiter is descending today." A recent sheet of stamps offering "Views of Our Planets" includes an image of Jupiter taken by the Hubble Space Telescope's near-infrared camera and multi-object spectrometer in 2004.
510. It's possible, of course, that it was the god that was descending, rather than the planet. Which raises the question: which of the other planets is mentioned by name in the Canon?
511. William B. Beeson ("The Barque Lone Star") died on Oct. 23. Bill was a computer programmer at Texas Instruments, a magician, one of the founders of The Crew of The Barque Lone Star, an ardent Texan who delighted in parading in costume wearing a ten-gallon deerstalker. He also arranged for a supply of cloth saddlebags to hold the souvenirs distributed at annual dinners of The Baker Street Irregulars, and happily performed (as Boris) in a Dallas production of "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca". Bill received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.
512. Nick Digilio has a three-hour series on WGN Radio, and on Oct. 18 the show included a 29-minute interview with Bob Madia about "Sherlock Holmes: Peter Cushing, Monster Encounters, and Extensive Collections"; you can listen to the segment at www.tinyurl.com/z3pz5ou.
513. The now-immortal phrase "Elementary, my dear Watson" is first known to have been spoken by Sherlock Holmes in the film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), which starred Clive Brook and H. Reeves-Smith. The phrase also is found in P. G. Wodehouse's "Psmith, Journalist: His Adventures in New York" (which was serialized in The Captain: A Magazine for Boys and "Old Boys" in 1909-1910); Psmith murmured those words in the Jan. 1910 issue. The story was published as a book in 1915, and you can read it on-line at Project Gutenberg www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2607.
514. You possibly have read or heard that the phrase was first used by William Gillette, but it's not to be found in any of the scripts for his play used or published during his lifetime. Holmes did say those words in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's play in 1974; that script was published by Samuel French in 1976 and by Doubleday in 1977.
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515. Oct 16 #3 Which of the other planets is mentioned by name in the Canon? It's our own, of course. How on Earth could anyone have forgotten that often-used phrase? If your answer was Mercury, which was suggested by Bob Thomalen when I first asked that question in 1991, there is indeed a mention of Mercury, but it's not the planet: it's a newspaper (the Leeds Mercury, mentioned in "The Hound of the Baskervilles").
516. THE OBSIDIAN CHAMBER, by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, is the latest in their series of suspense novels about FBI special agent Pendergast; it is not Sherlockian or Doylean, but you can watch an amusing video of Child signing 4,000 copies of the book at www.youtube.com/gpe6jcv. Their WHITE FIRE (Nov 14 #5) began with their account of the dinner at which Arthur Conan Doyle met Oscar Wilde, and involved a search for the manuscript of the long-lost last Sherlock Holmes story.
517. "Well, I quit my job so I could work all alone,/Then I changed my name to Sherlock Holmes./Followed some clues from my detective bag/And discovered they was Red stripes in the American flag!/That ol' Betsy Ross..." That's one version of the lyrics of "The Talkin' John Birch Society Blues" (1962), a song written by Bob Dylan that CBS-TV refused to allow him to sing on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1963. This month Dylan won the Nobel Prize in Literature; considered by many to be the poet laureate of the rock era, he is the first musician to win the award, which recognized his "having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition."
518. Further to the report (Sep 16 #4) that an earlier version of the sign for the Sherlock Holmes pub in London was up at auction on eBay, it's pleasant to be able to report that it was acquired by a Sherlockian: Nick Utechin now is the proud owner of the sign. It remains to be seen whether Nick plans to become the proprietor of a pub in Oxford.
519. Michael Robertson's THE BAKER STREET JURORS (Apr 16 #7) featured Reggie and Nigel Heath, who have offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires them to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail, which includes a jury summons. Robertson has contributed to the Criminal Element blog an amusing discussion of "Why Sherlock Holmes Could Be Summoned for Jury Duty in the 21st Century--and How He Might Feel About It" www.tinyurl.com/j2xqvf.
520. Laurie R. King's MARY RUSSELL'S WAR AND OTHER STORIES OF SUSPENSE (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen Press, 2016; 300 pp., \$15.95) is a welcome addition to what Mary Russell's fans call the Kanon: a collection of ten short stories (nine reprints and one new) that illuminate and explain some of the gaps in the history of Russell and Holmes.
521. Charles J. Rzepka's interesting essay on "'The Unofficial Force': Irregular Author Love and Love and the Higher Criticism" has been published in TRANSATLANTIC LITERATURE AND AUTHOR LOVE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016; 371 pp., \$109.00), and it offers an excellent review of the world of Sherlockians and their societies. Edited by Paul Westover and Ann Wierda Rowland, the book is the latest in the "Palgrave Studies in Nineteenth-Century Writing and Culture" series.
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522. Oct 16 #4 Gordon R. Speck (Colonel James Barclay) died on Oct. 10. Gordon served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, taught English at the Menard Correctional Center in southern Illinois, and was an enthusiastic member of The Occupants of the Empty House and many other midwestern Sherlockian societies; he also was one of the three founders of The Victoria Station Idlers, a society that met only once, at St. Louis International Airport, and presided over the Speck Led Band when he and friends traveled to Sherlockian event. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
523. Just in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year will be on-line at www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm on Nov. 1.
524. The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has launched a new magazine: The Illustrated Holmesian News (Published Monthly When It's Published), and you can read all about it (in French) at www.mycrofts.net/magazine-sh; there is a link "(Commandez-le ici!" in purple) to their shop, where you can order the first issue of the magazine, and other publications by the SSHF.
525. The BBC offers an interesting (and amusing) list of "14 Ways to Know You've Got Too Much Stuff" www.tinyurl.com/h7aoj59; of course that's stuff other than books, but nevertheless ...

526. Boo! Someone in Takoma Park, Md., has read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and created an imaginative frontlawn Halloween decoration, spotted by Alison Rosenberg. If the image isn't clear enough, the gravemarker reads "Here Lies Sir Charles Baskerville".
527. Emma Jane Holloway's "The Baskerville Affair" trilogy offers an imaginative mix of steampunk and magic, featuring Evalina Cooper (niece of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes) and a plot that involves romance, rebellion, sorcery, heroines, heroes (including her uncles), and villains, all in a Victorian alternative-universe England. The books are *A STUDY IN SILKS* (New York: Del Rey, 2013; 549 pp., \$7.99); *A STUDY IN DARKNESS* (2013; 535 pp., \$7.99); and *A STUDY IN ASHES* (2013; 662 pp., \$7.99); and there's an additional e-book *THE BASKERVILLE TALES* (2014; 133 pp., \$0.99) with three short stories tied to the novels. The author's web-site at <www.emmajaneholloway.com> provides an interesting introduction to the series.
528. Anyone who fondly remembers Ely Liebow (and I don't think there is anyone who remembers Ely who doesn't remember him fondly) will enjoy a delightful tribute to him written by Ray Betzner and posted to his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.tinyurl.com/zszjdvs>.
529. The American Museum of Natural History's traveling exhibition on "The Power of Poison" is now at the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City through Apr. 16; the exhibition highlights poison's cultural impact, from Egyptian and Indian mythology through Shakespeare Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie and Harry Potter, and there's an interesting web-site about it at <www.tinyurl.com/h2nuvwm>. The Salt Lake City exhibition's web-site is at <www.nhmu.utah.edu/poison>.
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530. Oct 16 #5 A friend of The Sound of the Baskervilles (the Sherlockian society in Seattle), hoping to encourage someone to write an article based on the premise that Sherlock Holmes was a Catholic priest before he met Watson, has given the society a collection of books that might be useful in writing the article; Dale Crakes <horta_981121@yahoo.com> will be glad to provide a list of the books, and to answer questions about the project (there will be no cost for shipping, and it's an interesting list).
531. "Our Favorite Books" is an occasional one-hour series on Utah Public Radio, and on Oct. 18 the subject was "Sherlock Holmes"; Tom Williams interviewed Utah State University Associate Professor of English Brian McCuskey and local expert Sherlockian and Doylean Michael Homer. The program's available at <www.upr.org/post/our-favorite-books-sherlock-holmes>.
532. Benedict Cumberbatch made the cover of the November issue of *Vanity Fair*, and you can read the story on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/zclqfdz>, where you also can "Watch Benedict Cumberbatch Perform Magic" in a short video. He also will host "Saturday Night Live" on NBC-TV on Nov. 5, perhaps, or perhaps not, doing something Sherlockian. Finally, PBS-TV and the BBC will air the first episode of the next season of "Sherlock" on New Year's Day (it's "The Six Thatchers").
533. Upcoming in Phoenix, Ariz.: the Herberger Theater and ASU Center of Film, Media and Popular Culture will present a "Sherlock Holmes Film Festival" on Mar. 24-25, 2017; there will be four Sherlockian films in the program, with discussion/Q&A by playwright Jeffrey Hatcher and film expert Russell Merritt <www.herbergertheater.org>.
534. Richard L. Kellogg has added to his entertaining series of books for young readers (with attractive artwork by Gary Kato): the first titles were *BARRY BASKERVILLE SOLVES A CASE* (Apr 13 #4) and *BARRY BASKERVILLE RETURNS* (May 14 #4), and now there are *BARRY BASKERVILLE TRAPS A THIEF* (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2015; 34 pp., \$10.99) and *BARRY BASKERVILLE'S BLUE BICYCLE* (2016; 38 pp., \$10.99).
535. TransProse, created by Hannah Davis, is a computer program that translates text into music, based on the density of eight different emotions; she has generated music from this year's presidential debates, and from literature that includes "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", which you can listen to at <www.musicfromtext.com/novels.html>.
536. Reported: Brad Ricca's *MRS. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE STORY OF NEW YORK'S GREATEST FEMALE DETECTIVE AND THE 1917 MISSING GIRL CASE THAT CAPTIVATED A NATION* (due from St. Martin's in January); the detective was Mary Winterton Quackenbos Humiston, and the missing girl was Ruth Cruger; in the meantime you can read Karen Abbott's article ("Mrs. Sherlock Holmes' Takes on the NYPD") at the Smithsonian magazine web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hk6hc7c>.
537. The debate about whether Sherlock Holmes attended Oxford or Cambridge will continue as long as there are Sherlockians prepared to argue for or against one college or the other, but a story in the *Oxford Mail* (Sept. 29) reports that Sherlock Holmes once taught physical education and English at the City of Oxford High School for Boys <www.tinyurl.com/jspopke>.
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538. Oct 16 #6 Samantha Wolov, who recalls that the Algonquin was an unusual aspect of her childhood, has reported a story that will be of interest to those who remember when the hotel was the center of the Sherlockian world in New York: the Algonquin's iconic cat now is the star of a children's book *MATILDA, THE ALGONQUIN CAT*, written by Leslie Martini and nicely illustrated by Massimo Mongiardo (*Deadwood*: Wyatt-MacKenzie, 2016; 44 pp., \$26.00). The N.Y. Post story's at <www.tinyurl.com/zgamsdg>.
539. The latest stamp in our Literary Arts series honors Henry James (1843-1916), a prolific and highly-regarded author who appears not in the Canon, but rather as a major character in Dan Simmons' pastiche *THE FIFTH HEART* (Aug 15 #4); the portrait is by Los Angeles artist Kate Simmons (no relation to Dan).
540. Nicholas Utechin's *FROM ABBEY TO WILES* (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 2016; 26 pp., \$20.00) is a splendid (and full-color) examination of the work of the seven artists who illustrated the dust jackets for the John Murray editions of the Canon, providing an excellent demonstration of the reason why dust jackets can be so important to collectors, and to those who enjoy seeing how various artists have portrayed the Sherlock Holmes. One shudders to think of how many readers have not protected the dust jackets on their books, making it both difficult and expensive to see the artwork. You can purchase Nick's book (\$20.00 postpaid) at www.tinyurl.com/zzxnm82 (that's the Society's shop, where you'll find a nice variety of interesting Sherlockian scholarship).
541. "An Elementary Buy!" was the headline in the *Daily Mail* (Oct. 3) on a story noting that Masongill Cottage, near Ingleton in North Yorkshire, in on the market priced at £575,000 <www.tinyurl.com/j22fbbv>. Conan Doyle's mother moved into Masongill Cottage in the mid-1880s and lived there until 1917, and the article has some nice photographs of the exterior and interior of the cottage. And some thoroughly inaccurate suggestions that it was there that Conan Doyle was inspired to create Sherlock Holmes.
542. Sherlockian societies often publicize Sherlock Holmes with interesting programs arranged at local libraries, and The Crew of the Barque Lone Star in Dallas offers a fine example: an evening devoted to "The Women of Sherlock Holmes" at the Allen Public Library on Nov. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/gpe3qpe>.
543. The N.Y. Times Book Review has a continuing series "By the Book", and they recently ran an interesting interview with Otto Penzler. Among the questions: "How old were you when you discovered mysteries? What book got you hooked?" Otto's answer was: "I was 21, and--I know it's trite because everyone starts here--when I read 'The Complete Sherlock Holmes' I was hooked for life." The complete interview's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/j8ykf7l>.

544. Work continues on getting the third "Sherlock Holmes" film starring Robert Downey Jr. into production: Variety reported (Oct. 27) that Warner Bros., Village Roadshow, and Team Downey have created a "writers' room" to work on the script. The concept, commonly used in television, is becoming a trend for films, and the team that will be working on "Sherlock Holmes" includes some talented writers; the full story is at <www.tinyurl.com/jm6lebu>.
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545. Oct 16 #7 Sherlock Holmes' 163rd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 6, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at the Annie Moore (22 East 41st Street); attendees will pay their own checks, but need to reserve with Susan Rice <susan221bee@gmail.com> (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) or with Evy Herzog <herzogbaesch@aol.com> (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).
546. As for the rest of the long weekend, this forecast will be shorter than in past years, because details about the Baker Street Irregulars' events and the William Gillette Luncheon are not yet available. The final forecast, which will include both events and hotel reservations, will be on-line early in November at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>.
547. One bit of news: The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture will be held on Thursday at a new venue: the Yale Club. The speaker will be Sara Parestky; she's the author of the continuing series of novels about V. I. Warshawski, and the Sherlockian pastiche "The Curious Affair of the Italian Art Dealer" published in the anthology IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014), and in 2011 she won the Grand Master Award from the Mystery Writers of America, recognizing work that is both significant and of consistent high quality.
548. The Baker Street Babes happily invite one and all to their "Daintiest Thing Under a Palm Tree Tiki Party" at the Salmagundi Club (47 Fifth Avenue); the party will start at 8:00 pm and will include dinner, toasts, a quiz, a costume competition, and a live auction that will benefit the Disabled American Veterans Trust (donations for the auction are welcome, and you can contact Lyndsay Faye at <lyndsay@bakerstreetbabes.com>; you'll soon be able to purchase tickets at the Babes' web-site <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>.
549. Otto Penzler will host his traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop); authors will be on hand to sign their books, and Otto promises a lot of older material at discount prices.
550. If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011. Susan Rice reports that plans are afoot for The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon on Friday, but the venue has not been confirmed.
551. The Gaslight Gala, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Butterfield 8 Restaurant (5 East 38th Street; the cost is not yet available, but you can check soon at the Gala web-site <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.
552. If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other items to be included in the various dinner packets, you can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to Nick Martorelli (Penguin Random House, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019); and 90 copies (for the Gala) to Chris Zordan (184 Blew Court, East Brunswick, NJ 08816; and 18 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your souvenirs must arrive by Dec. 15.
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553. Oct 16 #8 On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) somewhere in the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; consult the hotel directory for the location. Vendors should contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) to request information about dealer's tables; his e-mail address is <bugmanhall@aol.com>.
554. The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:30 am, for devotees of the work of John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse; additional information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu>.
555. For those who wish to continue celebrating, The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host "The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Aherlockians Dinner" at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); more information is available from Chrys Kegley (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.
556. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will end the birthday festivities with an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, at 11:30 am at St. Andrews (140 West 46th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues); \$25.00. On-line sales will open mid-November at <www.ash-nyc.com>; please reserve to ashbrunch@gmail.com (it's possible that there will be room for late-comers).
557. There will be blocks of rooms available at the Yale Club and the Roosevelt Hotel, but other hotels offer reasonable (for New York) rates: the best offers will be found on the Internet at web-sites such as <www.expedia.com>.
558. <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com> (which is owned by Expedia), and <www.hotels.com>; you will be wise if you then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).
559. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.
560. Again, you should check at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html> in November to find more complete information about registering for events and making hotel reservations; space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering after information's available at the web-site.
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561. Nov 16 # 1 Updating the truncated report in the last issue on the birthday festivities in New York: details on all of the events, from the ASH Wednesday dinner on Jan. 4 to the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' informal brunch on Jan. 8, will be found at Scott Monty's informative web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, which includes links to registration forms and to Scott's helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips".
562. McSorley's Old Ale House (the venue for the lunch following the Christopher Morley Walk on Jan. 5) had quite a bit of publicity this month when for the first time in its 162 years the establishment was closed by the Department of Health for rat activity. The rats apparently came from reconstruction in nearby Cooper Square; the problems were quickly remedied and McSorley's was open again after only a few days. The East Village Patch reported that the bar was open temporarily to hold a wedding reception for a couple who had booked a year in advance; the bride and groom, who were diehard fans of McSorley's, were able to hold their reception at the bar, even though food and drink weren't allowed to be served.

563. THE CANONICAL CEREBRATIONS OF GORDON R. SPECK has been edited by William R. Cochran as a tribute to Gordon, and the 68-page pamphlet offers a grand opportunity to see how much fun he had with his contributions to The Camden House Journal (the monthly newsletter of The Occupants of the Empty House); \$21.00 postpaid (to the U.S.), with checks payable to The Occupants, sent to Bill at 614 South Terrace Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901.
564. Charles Veley's THE WILHELM CONSPIRACY (Seattle: Thomas & Mercer, 2016; 266 pp., \$15.95) is the second in his "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series; Lucy James is Sherlock Holmes' daughter, and this time the mystery involves Nikola Tesla, the Prince of Wales, Kaiser Wilhelm II, and weapons research. The first in the series was THE LAST MORIARTY (2015), and there are more to come. The author's also a Gilbert and Sullivan enthusiast, and has written the book and lyrics for a musical "The Pirates of Finance".
565. Denis O. Smith's THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF THE NEW CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 2016; 531 pp., \$16.95) is a collection of seven new traditional pastiches; he has been writing short-story pastiches since the 1980s, and does well with fidelity to the Canon. He has a list of his earlier books at his author's page at <www.tinyurl.com/hjvm9dc>.
566. Also from Skyhorse: THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF THE ADVENTURES OF PROFESSOR MORIARTY (2015; 577 pp., \$16.99), edited by Maxim Jakubowski, is an anthology of 37 high-quality short stories "about the secret life of Sherlock Holmes' nemesis," most by authors new to the Sherlockian genre who explore interesting aspects of the life and career of Holmes' arch-enemy.
567. A rifled airane, late 19th century, .36 calibre, with a silver band around the upper section inscribed "Colonel Sebastian Moran/Bagatelle Card Club" is one of three airanes in a lot coming to auction at Thomas Del Mar Ltd. in London on Dec. 7 from the collection of Stanley Victor Durrant, with an estimate of £400-600 for the three airanes <www.tinyurl.com/j6wwxoa>. It would appear that someone had a Canonical sense of humor.
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568. Nov 16 #2 Richard Whittington-Egan died on Sept. 14. He was an author, historian of British crime, and a dedicated Ripperologist; his many books included an expanded edition of THE STORY OF MR. GEORGE EDALJI (1985), edited with his wife Molly, and THE OSCAR SLATER MURDER STORY: NEW LIGHT ON A CLASSIC MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE (2001).
569. Brad Keefauver gives Howard Ostrom credit for spotting the amusing 4-minute video "Elemental (mi querido Watson)" at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jxno5yj>.
570. Publicity continues for the "Sherlocked USA" convention to be held in Los Angeles on May 26-28, 2017; it's organized in association with Hartswood Films (the company that produces the BBC series "Sherlock") <www.sherlockedusa.com>, and Sherlocked now has an official bear, named Furlock, created by the Great British Teddy Bear Company and available only from the convention <www.tinyurl.com/zvxmc26> (£39.99 plus shipping). Many of the series stars attend the Sherlocked conferences, and the cost of tickets ranges from \$125 to \$2995.
571. The Great British Teddy Bear Company offers its own Sherlock Holmes (£29.95) <www.britishteddies.com>. Last year company announced plans to open more than 100 Great British Teddy Bear Cafes in China, offering customers afternoon tea "in a truly British atmosphere," early this year, but there has not been any announcement that cafes are open.
572. "Under the Clock, Sherlock--Still Rockin' After All These Years" is the title of a nicely-illustrated compilation by Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson showing the influence of Sherlock Holmes on the music industry, beginning with the Royal Court Theatre revue in 1893 and extending through jazz, hiphop, punk rock, rap, orchestration, and much more. There are 198 pages in the file, which can be read or downloaded at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.nplh.co.uk/under-the-clock-essay.html>.
573. Howard also has updated his "Silent Sherlock" file, which now has 355 Sherlockian silent films (including three made in 2016); it also will be found at "No Place Like Holmes" <www.nplh.co.uk/si-lock.html>.
574. Further to the report (Oct 16 #7) that Warner Bros., Village Roadshow, and Team Downey had created a "writers' room" to work on a script for the third "Sherlock Holmes" film, it appears that the committee approach lasted only a week, and there's now one writer working on the script.
575. Howard Ostrom spotted a delightful (and unofficial) trailer for the BBC's "Sherlock" on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/hnpstq7>.
576. Robert Vaughn died on Nov. 11. He began his acting career on stage in 1944 at the age of 12, made his first appearance on television in 1955, and was perhaps best known as Napoleon Solo in the television series "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." (1964-1968); he also starred in many films, including "The Magnificent Seven" (1960) and "Bullitt" (1968), and he played Sherlock Holmes in a skit on "The Hollywood Palace" on ABC-TV in 1968, with Charlie Manna as Watson and Phyllis Diller as Prof. Moriarty.
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577. Nov 16 #3 Plan ahead: The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) will celebrate the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner Birraporetti's Downtown in Houston on Apr. 5, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Members of The John Openshaw Society will also be on hand, and the festivities are open to all.
578. Wladyslaw T. Benda (1873-1948) illustrated "The Sussex Vampire" in Hearst's International Magazine (Jan. 1924), as well as some of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work. Fred Taraba (at Taraba Illustration Art) <www.tarabaillustrationart.com> is advertising Benda's original artwork for a "Tropical Beauty"; Benda also was famous for creating masks, and British Pathé has posted some interesting footage from 1922 showing him and some of his masks at <www.tinyurl.com/pytjs2>.
579. And here's what Brad Keefauver had to say at his Sherlock Peoria blog about "Elemental (mi querido Watson)": <www.tinyurl.com/jqo9at6>.
580. Hayao Miyazaki, who directed the first six episodes of "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" and went on to a stellar career as one of Japan's greatest animation directors, is coming out of retirement for the third time to direct a new full-length film ("Boro the Caterpillar"), according to a report at Dazed <www.tinyurl.com/gotrrkc>. The film expected to take five years to complete, and Miyazaki will be 80 years old when it's released. Thanks to Samantha Wolov for spotting the story.
581. One doesn't often see original artwork for "The Great Mouse Detective" at auction, and when it's available it's usually animation cels; Profiles in History is offering more than 50 production drawings for the film at auction on Dec. 9: it's lot 390 in the catalog at <www.tinyurl.com/nr9wru7>.
582. There are some new comic-book mini-series: THE BAKER STREET PECULIARS (four issues), written by Roger Langridge, from KaBOOM! <www.tinyurl.com/htyj3tb> (Sherlock Holmes is a fictional character, created by Mrs. Hudson, who enlists three children to help her in her detective work); NICHOLAS MEYER'S THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (five issues), adapted from his pastiche, from IDW <www.idwpublishing.com>, also available as a graphic novel; SHERLOCK: A STUDY IN PINK (five issues), the English version of the Japanese manga series based on the BBC television program, from Titan <www.titan-comics.com>, to be collected as a graphic novel due next year, and with THE BLIND BANKER due as a second mini-series; and MYCROFT HOLMES AND THE APOCALYPSE HANDBOOK (five issues), written by Kareem Abdul-Jabar as a continuation of his MYCROFT HOLMES pastiche, also from Titan, and to be collected as a graphic novel next year. The IDW and Titan mini-series have a variety of multiple covers, which seems to be a growing trend in the world of comics.

583. Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the latest edition has now with 108 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and with bibliographic details for thousands of entries, on a 4-GB reusable thumb drive (\$15.00 postpaid to the U.S. or \$30.00 elsewhere) from Don at 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028.
584. Nov 16 #4 Gary Reed died on Oct. 2. He was a freelance writer and novelist, a radio-show host, a bookstore owner, a convention organizer, a comic-book retailer, and a video-game consultant, and he was best known as the founder and publisher of Caliber Comics, a company that published many Sherlockian comic books and graphic novels.
585. Go to <www.joyofsocks.com> and search for [sherlock] to find three pairs of imaginative socks with Sherlockian motifs, kindly reported by Ron Lies.
586. And a bit more about "Elemental (mi querido Watson)": the famous (perhaps infamous) "tent joke" (apparently the joke that will never die) was posted to The Hounds of the Internet in July 1998, and apparently first published in the Nov. 1998 issue of the Reader's Digest. If you'd like to read it in English, you'll find it in a past issue of my newsletter (Dec 08 #6), which is conveniently available on-line <www.sherlocktron.com/2001.pdf>.
587. Are there any connections between Holmes and Conan Doyle and current politics in the United States? Yes indeed: "When the other fellow has all the trumps, it saves time to throw down your hand," Holmes said (in "The Mazarin Stone"). And "This is the first fault of our politics, where one party rejoices to break what the other has bound," Conan Doyle suggested (in "Through the Magic Door"). He ran for Parliament for the Border Burghs in 1906, and proclaimed his platform in an election poster that was among the items offered in Christie's auction of the Conan Doyle family archives in 2004 (thanks to Dan Stashower for remembering that the poster was shown in the auction catalog). You'll find a much more readable image of the poster at the web-site of The Red Circle of Washington <www.redcircledc.org>.
588. The Agra Treasurers have announced their next "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" conference in Dayton, Ohio, for Mar. 24-25, 2017; there's more information about the festivities at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h8v87os>.
589. John Connolly's "Holmes on the Range: A Tale of the Caxton Private Library & Book Depository" was (deservedly) the lead story in the anthology ECHOES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Aug 16 #2); it's also available, along with another (non-Sherlockian) story about the Caxton, in his NIGHT MUSIC: NOCTURES VOLUME 2 (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2015; 436 pp., £14.99) (New York: Atria/ Emily Bestler, 2015; 464 pp., \$17.00). The other stories in the collection also are excellent, and you can see how versatile Connolly is by visiting his web-site <www.johnconnollybooks.com>.
590. Yet another comic-book mini-series: SHERLOCK HOLMES: STEAM DETECTIVE (four issues), written by Robby Bevard and David Hutchison, from Antarctic Press <www.antarctic-press.com>, also available as a graphic novel.
591. President Barack Obama has awarded Kareem Abdul-Jabbar the Presidential Medal of Freedom, saying that "the reason we honor Kareem is more than just a pair of goggles and a skyhook," adding that "he is an American who both illuminates our most basic freedoms and our highest aspirations." He also is the author of the pastiche MYCROFT HOLMES (2015) and this year's comic-book mini-series MYCROFT HOLMES AND THE APOCALYPSE HANDBOOK.
592. Nov 16 #5 Dramatists Play Service has published the (photocopied) script for Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" (dramatized from the novel by Larry Millett) (\$20.00); the full DPS catalog at <www.dramatists.com> also has older Sherlockian scripts by K. C. Brown, Stephen Dietz, Jeffrey Hatcher, F. Andrew Leslie, John Longenbaugh, Charles Marowitz, and Dennis Rosa.
593. Goyard of Paris has provided custom-made luggage to celebrities for decades, and one of their many customers was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose "writing trunk" (commissioned in 1925), owned by the Goyard Museum, was exhibited at the Salon Art+Design show in New York this month. Featured in an article in Architectural Digest <www.tinyurl.com/jcjk6fx>, it includes a table, bookcase, typewriter, and storage space. Goyard president Michel Signoles said that Conan Doyle wanted "a custom-made trunk that would enable him to comfortably pursue his writing on his continuous world-wide forays." Goyard has its own interesting web-site at <www.goyard.com>.
594. Ross Davies reports that the Winterthur Museum has issued a call for papers for a scholarly conference on Mar. 29-30, 2018, on "Images, Copyright, and the Public Domain in the Long Nineteenth Century"; the long nineteenth century (1789-1914, according the entry at Wikipedia) includes the career of Sherlock Holmes. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/h6q7hxz>.
595. When in Spain: there's a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Málaga, without a web-site but with a Facebook page. Málaga also has a Calle Conan Doyle, as reported some years ago (May 10 #4).
596. Reported: Therese Oneil's UNMENTIONABLE: THE VICTORIAN LADY'S GUIDE TO SEX, MARRIAGE, AND MANNERS (Boston: Little, Brown, 2016; 307 p., \$25.00) was reviewed by Caitlin Flanagan in the Washington Post (Nov. 6) with the headline "If you're besotted by the Victorian world, beware the era's reality." You can read the review at <www.tinyurl.com/jub7mt5>.
597. Mattias Boström reports that the British Film Institute has made available a 16-minute silent film from the Wessex Film and Sound Archive: "Arthur Conan Doyle Relaxes with His Family at Windlesham" (1929) includes scenes at Windlesham and other locations such as Egypt, Brisbane and Victoria Falls. The BFI's Facebook page had a 30-second teaser <www.tinyurl.com/zywrbs6>, posted on Nov. 19, and the complete film may still be available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jyppydv>; if not, you can see the film at the BFI web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zab5zo5>, but only if you're in Britain or have a program such as Hola! that allows you to spoof the BFI into thinking that you're in Britain.
598. "All of British Literature in 45 Seconds" is an amusing animation spotted by Alexander Orlov at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/gnglxb4>, and it's nice that "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is included; the animation was created by Visit Britain as a promotion to potential Russian tourists (the narration's in Russian, and you can enjoy figuring out what the other books are).
599. Nov 16 #6 Those who have seeing enjoyed performances of Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" and "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" have something non-Sherlockian in store: his new play "Robin Hood!" (billed as filled with thrills, romance, and laughs), will have its world premiere at the Old Globe in San Diego, Calif., July 22-Aug. 27, 2017, and it will surely have many of local productions thereafter.
600. Dan Andriaccio's ERIN GO BLOODY (MX Publishing, 2016; 235 pp., \$14.95), the latest in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, offers more mysteries to solve in Erin, Ohio, where St. Benignus College is now a University and Jeff is now a father; it's an entertaining story with an interesting plot, and there are, as usual, many Canonical echoes. Andriaccio has a lively blog at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.
601. Also from MX: Daniel D. Victor's THE OUTRAGE AT THE DIOGENES CLUB (2016; 156 pp., \$12.95) is the fourth in his "Sherlock Holmes and the American Literati" series; this mystery involves a meeting with Jack London and the discovery that London's unfinished book THE ASSASSINATION BUREAU, LTD. Was based on a real criminal organization that was thwarted by the efforts of Holmes and Watson. Alan Lance Andersen's THE AFFAIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, BY SAX ROHMER, in two volumes (2016; 154/389 pp., \$14.95/\$21.95) is an interesting approach to pastiche: Rohmer wrote many stories featuring protagonists other than Dr. Fu Manchu, one of them being Paul Harley, found in BAT WING and TALES OF CHINATOWN, and Andersen has turned the stories into entertaining period Sherlockian pastiches.

602. More from MX: Christopher James' *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE JEWELLER OF FLORENCE* (2016, 251 pp., \$14.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a lost play by William Shakespeare in a case that involves many crimes as well as a mysterious criminal organization.
603. Esther M. Friesner's amusing story "The Cat Bell" in the November/December issue of the *Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* was inspired by a visit to Gillette Castle, the former home of William Gillette; the story is not Sherlockian, but it will certainly entertain anyone who has enjoyed a tour of the Castle.
604. Reported: Damien Lewis' *THE MINISTRY OF UNGENTLEMANLY WARFARE: HOW CHURCHILL'S SECRET WARRIORS SET EUROPE ABLAZE AND GAVE BIRTH TO MODERN BLACK OPS* (New York: Quercus, 2015; 352 pp., \$24.99); a detailed history of the SOE, which had its headquarters in Baker Street (they happily called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars).
605. "Just opposite the Wigmore Street Office they have taken up the pavement," Holmes said (in "The Sign of the Four"), "and thrown up some earth, which lies in such a way that it is difficult to avoid treading in it in entering. The earth is of this peculiar reddish tint which is found, as far as I know, nowhere else in the neighbourhood. So much is observation. The rest is deduction." GEO Ex Pro has reported <www.tinyurl.com/jysephj> on a new web-site and smart-phone app for geologists "that brings the pavements and buildings of London to life," and it's a fascinating resource (even if the Wigmore Street Post Office isn't in the data-base).
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606. Nov 16 #7 *THRICE THE BRINED CAT HATH MEW'D*, by Alan Bradley (New York: Delacorte Press 2016; 326 pp., \$26.00) is the latest title in his award-winning "Flavia de Luce" series, and there are occasional Sherlockian allusions. Bradley was the co-author of *MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET* (2004), and The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker during the birthday festivities in 2015; his lecture was published in the spring 2015 issue of *The Baker Street Journal*.
607. Radio Times has reported (Sept. 26) on the results of a poll asking Britons what their favorite home is, and the winner was Doctor Who's Tardis, with Highclere Castle second, and Southfork Ranch third. 221B Baker Street was eighth, just ahead of Frasier's penthouse <www.tinyurl.com/gn5wfx>.
608. Reported: Philip Hensher has edited *THE PENGUIN BOOK OF THE BRITISH SHORT STORY* (London: Penguin, 2015; two volumes, 769/784 pp., £25.00 each), and "Silver Blaze" is one of the stories.
609. There's a growing number of Sherlockian and Doylean crowd-funding projects that allow people to help fund interesting projects, at web-sites such as Kickstarter and Indiegogo; I confess that I've not paid much attention to them, but it is time I started. David Marcum has edited *HOLMES AWAY FROM HOME: ADVENTURES FROM THE GREAT HIATUS* (two volumes of new pastiches, and there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/jubda8x>).
610. And there's a campaign to fund production of a film of Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" (the last of his stories about Prof. Challenger); Sterling Van Wagenen (co-founder of the Sundance Film Festival) is executive producer, and Peter C. Davidson the director; there's more information about the project at <www.thedisintegrationmachine.com>.
611. *ELEMENTARY: BLOOD AND INK*, by Adam Christopher (London: Titan Books, 2016; 297 pp., \$7.99), is his second novel based on the CBS-TV series that stars Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu, offering a new story with style and panache <www.adamchristopher.ac>.
612. Howard Ostrom has quite a few data-bases, including his extensive "The A-Z of Sherlock Holmes Performers" where he has information on thousands of actors who have played the role, quite often with images of the actors in an out of character. Howard wonders about Burt Grosselfinger, who may have played Holmes at a theater in (or near) Bridgeport, Conn., possibly around 1975, and Howard would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who can help <howardostrom@gmail.com>.
613. Laurie R. King continues to entertain her fans on the Internet: her November News <www.tinyurl.com/hvz9qsm> offers video of her Maryorama (formerly known as Russellscape), news of her next book (a stand-alone thriller *LOCKDOWN*, due next year), and much more. Her web-site at www.laurierking.com also is colorful and interesting (you can click on "Blogs" to read Laurie's "Mutterings" and "Mary Russell's Blog"), and Laurie has her own channel at YouTube <www.youtube.com/user/laurierking>. Finally, you can hear Laurie and Les Klinger interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder in episode 105 of their podcast "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/jgv6csn>.
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614. Nov 16 #8 "We are glad to see, however, that a person who was capable of writing a monograph on 140 different varieties of pipe, cigar, and cigarette ash was still sufficiently human to fail at first in solving the mystery of 'the man with the twisted lip.'" From a review of *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, spotted by Alexander Orlov in the *Manchester Guardian* (Oct. 25, 1892).
615. Theatrical news: "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Copper Beeches" (a new dramatization by Tal Aviezer) is now running at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., through Dec. 4 <www.lyndhurst.org>.
616. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is on at the Austin Playhouse in Austin, Tex., through Dec. 18 <www.austinplayhouse.com>. It's also due at the Phoenix Theatre in Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 25 through Feb. 12 <www.phoenixtheatre.com>.
617. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (newly dramatized, with a comedy element, by Thomas P. Jordan) is on tour in Britain through Jan. 7 ("four actors, one mystery, no clue") <www.rainorshine.co.uk>.
618. "Sherlock Holmes et le chiens des Baskerville" (the francophone version of the parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is touring in the province of Quebec through May 19 <www.theatreaqp.com>.
619. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Bridewell Theatre in London, Dec. 13-17 <www.towertheatre.org.uk/sherlock_holmes.htm>.
620. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Jack Studio Theatre in London, Dec. 13-Jan. 7; web-site at <www.brockleyjack.co.uk>. And during the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival at DeSales University's Labuda Center in Center Valley, Pa., June 21-July 16 <www.pashakespeare.org>.
621. "The Terrible Case of Sherlock Holmes: The Excruciating Affair of the Ivy House Academy" (a new play by Darren Gooding) will open at the Colchester Arts Centre in Colchester, Essex, on Dec. 15, and then go on tour in Britain <www.ihearvoicestheatre.co.uk>.
622. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be performed at the Hinton Centre in Hinton, Alta., Jan. 13-21, 2017 <www.breakalegtheatre.com>, and at the Performing Arts Theatre at Bossier Parish Community College in Bossier City, La., Mar. 9-19 <www.bpsc.edu/theatre>.
623. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Scrooge's Ghoulies" (which sounds like a holiday panto) is to be performed at the Saxby All Saints Village Hall in Brigg, N. Lincs., Jan. 21-22 <www.tinyurl.com/hbnm567>.
624. "The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is to be performed at the First Presbyterian Day School in Macon, Ga., on Jan. 26-27 <www.fpdtheatre.org>.
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625. Dec 16 #1 Coming to auction on Jan. 11 at the Doyle auction house in New York: a model of the Arctic Whale Ship Hope, fully rigged, built to a scale of 1:96 by Lt. Col. Colin B. Gray, a descendant of the Gray whaling family of Peterhead, Scotland <www.tinyurl.com/z2dvulk>. It was in 1880 that Conan Doyle sailed on the Hope as ship's surgeon, keeping the journal published as *DANGEROUS WORK: DIARY OF AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE* (2012). The

- model, estimated at \$4,000-\$6,000, is from the collection of Nelson Doubleday Jr., grandson of Frank Nelson Doubleday, whose company published many of Conan Doyle's books in the U.S., and hired, as a publicist and publisher's reader, a young Oxford graduate named Christopher Morley, launching his literary career.
626. Michael Dirda had high praise for IT'S ALL ONE CASE: THE ILLUSTRATED ROSS MACDONALD ARCHIVES in his Washington Post review www.tinyurl.com/jpckrxx of the new book about Kenneth Millar (MacDonald's real name). There's no mention in the book of his first published story "The South Sea Soup Co." (a parody featuring Herlock Sholmes and Sotwum) in his school yearbook The Grumbler (1931), but there's a photograph of the yearbook staff.
627. The British Library offers much more than books: their adult learning courses will include a "Crime Classics Weekend" on Jan. 21-22, billed as offering participants to see rare publications and manuscript material, including the manuscript of "The Retired Colourman" <www.tinyurl.com/jq2ws4o>.
628. Next year's Crowborough Community Festival will run from May 1 to May 27, and will begin with "The Lost World Fun Day" (which will include a "Dinosaur Roar Children's Workshop"), and the list of events later in the month features two performances of "Beyond Baker Street" (an "immersive theatrical experience" that will offer audiences an exploration of Conan Doyle's life and works <www.crowboroughcommunityfestival.org>. Festival chairman Denis Hart has promised that Sherlock Holmes also will be making several appearances during the festival.
629. The Strand Magazine (the modern version edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to publish quarterly, and its on-line shop offers a variety of Sherlockian merchandise, including a full-color Sherlock Holmes wall calendar for 2017 (\$19.99) <www.strandmagazine.com/product/sherlock-holmes-calendar-2017>.
630. THE BIG BOOK OF JACK THE RIPPER, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage Crime/Black Lizard, 2016; 825 pp., \$25.00), is billed as "the most complete compendium of Ripper stories ever assembled," and its contents include Ellery Queen's A STUDY IN TERROR (their revised novelization of the 1965 film that starred John Neville and Donald Houston), Howard Waldrop's "The Adventure of the Grinder's Whistle", and Gwendolyn Frame's "Guardian Angel".
631. Mike Ashley's ADVENTURES IN THE STRAND: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND THE STRAND MAGAZINE (London: British Library, 2016; 188 pp., £25.00) is a delightful addition to anyone's shelf of biographies of Conan Doyle; Ashley uses his expertise in the history of popular fiction to provide a new focus for an exploration of Conan Doyle that centers on the magazine founded by George Newnes and edited by H. Greenhough Smith, but not to the exclusion of the many other aspects of Conan Doyle's life and work.
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632. Dec 16 #2 Donald A. McDonough ("Bodmaster McGinty") died on Nov. 26. He began his career in journalism operating a newsstand in Philadelphia and then landed a job as a copyboy at the Inquirer, and became an award-winning reporter and columnist for the paper before moving into public relations. He was a stalwart member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1976.
633. The BBC has done a grand job with teasers, trailers, and other publicity for the next season of "Sherlock" (which will be broadcast in the U.K. and the U.S. on New Year's Day), and it isn't a surprise that there's an addition to the cast, and to the Watson family, all three of whom are seen, with Sherlock Holmes, in a warm and cuddly portrait.
634. The BBC's publicity campaign for "Sherlock" included an announcement of the name of the Watson baby in the register of births, marriages, and deaths in The Telegraph on Dec. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/ho9gtmz>: "Congratulations!—To John and Mary Watson on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter, Rosamund Mary Watson. From your friends, Mrs. Hudson, Molly, and Sherlock, although he hasn't helped us with this at all as he's always on his phone."
635. Netimperative, which offers "digital intelligence for business, reported on Dec. 15 on research by eBay Advertising that reveals the huge impact that television broadcasts have on shopper behavior: the day after "The Abominable Bride" aired last January interest in deerstalkers rose by 55% on eBay, and searches for tweed items were up by 35%.
636. "Sherlock: The Final Problem" (the third and last episode in the new season) will be screened in theaters in the U.S. on Jan. 16 and 18; details at <www.fathomevents.com/event/sherlock-season-4-finale>. There will be additional content (as was the case when "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" had a similar screening in theaters); it should be noted that the additional content in the earlier theatrical screening was included in the DVD release, so it's likely that that will happen again.
637. "Masterpiece" is running a sweepstakes through Mar. 15; you can enter once a day <www.pbs.org/sweepstakes>, and one of the prizes will be a cast-autographed copy of the script for "The Abominable Bride". There's also a Podcast & Book Club <www.tinyurl.com/gvnofce> that features podcasts by Louise Brealy and (upcoming) Amanda Abbington and Martin Freeman.
638. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; it's now in its fourth year, and it's an excellent example of what can be done with modern technology: the current issue (with 94 colorful pages) is available on request from the editor <ruling_jay@yahoo.com>. An interesting item reported in the newsletter is Sherlockoji (a Sherlock emoji app), something that surely will be useful to those who enjoy decorating messages with emoji. It was developed by Meghashyam Chirravoori, and it's available at his SherlockHolmes-Fan web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zrubfek>. If you don't know what emoji are, they're defined at Wikipedia as ideograms and smileys used in electronic messages and web-pages. Those who don't understand that should consult with your grandkids.
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639. Dec 16 #3 Jonathan Clowes died on Nov. 18. He was a successful (and colorful) literary agent, and there was an excellent obituary for him in The Guardian <www.tinyurl.com/jzfay9v>. Clowes represented Princess Nina Mdivani, widow of Denis Conan Doyle, when she acquired the Conan Doyle copyright and created Baskerville Investments Ltd. in the 1970s; his firm's still listed as the agent at the web-site <www.tinyurl.com/gs5pu9m> of the late Andrea Plunket.
640. "Back to my love" is the title on the back of this oil-on-masonite artwork, dated as mid-20th century, sold at auction in November to Jerry Margolin, who would appreciate hearing from anyone who might be able to identify the artist, and whether and when and where the artwork was used as an illustration in a book or magazine <221bee@comcast.net>.
641. The Washington Consumer's Checkbook had an interesting item in August 2013 explaining how to "eRead for Free" <www.tinyurl.com/j6ombba>: the options include web-sites such as ManyBooks, Open Library, and Project Gutenberg, all of which offer much more than the text of the Canon. Search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle]; you'll find surprises, old and new, among the results.
642. Fritz Weaver died on Nov. 26. He received a Tony nomination for his Broadway debut in "The Chalk Garden" (1955), and later said that "the stage is where I began." He went on to play many roles on stage and in films and on television, and starred as Sherlock Holmes in the musical "Baker Street" in 1964. He also read the part of Conan Doyle in a staged reading of Attilio Favorini's "Bones" (described as "a post-modern suspense drama based on the events of the Piltdown Man hoax") in Pittsburgh in 1986.

643. SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR LAWYERS, by Cecil C. Kuhne III (Chicago: American Bar Association, 2016; 101 pp., \$14.95), offers "100 clues for litigators from the master detective," quotes from the Canon (and some non-Canonical work) with explanations of how the concepts can be quite useful to lawyers (and often to non-lawyers).
644. "In the summer of 1879, an English medical student named Arthur Conan Doyle began experimenting," Jeffrey E. Stern noted in a long article ("The Poison Flower") in the Jan./Feb. issue of The Atlantic <www.tinyurl.com/zayzmv3>. The poison was gelsemium, a rare plant poison that Conan Doyle wrote about in the British Medical Journal, and Stern's article is about the possible use of the poison to murder Russian tycoon Alexander Perepilichny in England in 2012 (May 15 #4).
645. "It begins in a musical theater, almost Rex Harrison kind of way, and then it turns into a full-on '70s pop/soft rock love extravaganza, with an operatic interlude in the middle," is lyricist Glen Slater's description of the same-sex love song he and composer Alan Menken have written for Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly, who are now at work filming "Holmes & Watson". A second song in the film, according to Menken, will be a "a tongue-in-cheek busker by a one-man band. Menken and Slater were interviewed by the Hollywood Reporter <www.tinyurl.com/hz9jdxr>. And the film's actually in production, at the Historic Dockyard at Chatham, and in London).

646. Dec 16 #4 Andrew Sachs died on Nov. 23. Best known as Manuel, the Spanish waiter, in the British television series "Fawlty Towers", he had a long career as an actor, on stage, screen, radio, and television. Sachs provided one of the best examples of how radio work doesn't depend on the physical appearance of an actor, portraying the King of Bohemia in "A Scandal in Bohemia" (dramatized by Bert Coules for BBC Radio 4 in 1990) and Dr. Watson in "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (Coules' dramatization of unrecorded cases for BBC Radio 4 from 2002 to 2010).
647. Basil Rathbone was asked in an interview whether he preferred playing Sherlock Holmes in films or on the radio. "On the radio," he replied, "because no one knows what you look like."
648. Litographs demonstrated the wonders of modern technology with an artistic design created from the text of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (May 13 #6), and Bev Wolov notes something new in that genre: BOUNDLESS BOOKS: 50 LITERARY CLASSICS TRANSFORMED INTO WORKS OF ART, by Postertext (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2016; 128 pp., \$40.00), with an imaginative Sherlockian design using the text of A STUDY IN SCARLET (also on the cover).
649. "Dr. A. Conan Doyle in His Tent at Bloemfontein, South Africa" is the title of this stereograph held by the Library of Congress; special viewers allowed people to see the images in 3D, and this image is available on-line at <www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2016645958>.
650. Jerry Margolin is offering to sell some of the artwork from his collection; you can e-mail him <221bee@comcast.net> to request images and details.
651. Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975) is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).
652. "The Great Big Beautiful Podcast" is a continuing series hosted at GeekDad; episode 105 (Nov. 29) offers an interesting interview with Nicholas Meyer <www.geekdad.com/2016/11/gbbp-105-nicholas-meyer> that includes discussion of "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution".
653. Peter Vaughan died on Dec. 6. He was a consummate character actor, and began his career on stage in Britain; he then appeared mostly on television and was most recently seen as Maester Aemon Targaryen in the series "Game of Thrones". He was seen as Arthur Morrison's detective Horace Dorrington in two episodes of "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971), and John Turner in Granada's "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" (1991).
654. The Penguin English Library, relaunched as offering "100 of the best novels in the English language" in attractive new covers and priced at £5.99 (Dec 12 #3) now includes seven Canonical titles: THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS AND OTHER CASES, THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, A STUDY IN SCARLET, THE SIGN OF FOUR, THE VALLEY OF FEAR, THE ADVENTURE OF THE ENGINEER'S THUMB AND OTHER CASES, and THE ADVENTURE OF THE SIX NAPOLEONS AND OTHER CASES.

655. Dec 16 #5 Ray Betzner's new post to his "Studies in Starrett" blog about Ellery Queen's four-page review in the Jan. 1934 issue of Mystery League of Vincent Starrett's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. And it's an interesting review, because it discusses in considerable detail the "inadequacies" in Starrett's book (and nevertheless ends with hearty praise for the work that Starrett did <www.vincentstarrett.com>.
656. The question "what's your favorite Sherlock Holmes story?" has a long history, and now there's a definitive answer: Christopher Redmond asked sixty Sherlockians to write essays answering that question and explaining their answers, for each of the stories. ABOUT SIXTY (Rockville: Wildside, 2016; 250 pp., \$14.99) has sixty-one (yes, sixty-one) interesting responses, and it's nicely done indeed.
657. Mattias Boström has discovered an interesting deerstalker in an illustration for a Sherlock Holmes story, in an advertisement in the Butler Citizen (Feb. 28, 1895). "But wait," Mattias notes, "it's Jonathan Small wearing it." The paper was published in Butler, Pa., at a time when many newspapers carried popular fiction.
658. Mark Hime's Bibliotopos offers delightful treasures for collectors at a web-site and in catalogs "with an attitude" in which items are "described with a presumption of familiarity, and in our unruly, bawdy, and quixotic style, many with rants and assaults from the scrolls of book collecting." Such as "a run of all the Holmes stories in The Strand Magazine" (56 short stories and 2 novels in single issues of the magazine), offered at \$85,000 <www.tinyurl.com/hw97xx6>.
659. The Bookseller reported on Dec. 15 www.tinyurl.com/harsnka that Hodder & Stoughton has acquired H. B. Lyle's novel THE IRREGULAR: A DIFFERENT CLASS OF SPY for publication in May; it is set in London in 1909, and Wiggins, now an ex-soldier, is persuaded to join the Secret Service. And the novel has been acquired by See-Saw Films for development as a TV series; See-Saw has some major co-production credits, including "The King's Speech" (2010) and Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" (2015).
660. Sherlockian.Net, launched in 1994 by Chris Redmond, has long been a truly valuable resource for Internet-savvy Sherlockians, and Chris has now turned the web-site over to new owners and editors: the Center for Writing, Information, and Digital Experience, a research center at Michigan State University, as announced at his own web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hgtmv3h>.
661. KILLING DR. WATSON, by Matt Ferraz (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 245 pp., \$14.95), offers an imaginative concept: someone is murdering the actors who played Watson in the BBC television series "The Baker Street Sleuth", and Jeremy Bellamy, an ardent fan of the series, winds up assisting Sir Barthomew Neville (who played Holmes) in pursuing the murderer. Viktor Messick's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A HOLE IN THE DEVIL'S TALE (2016; 130 pp., \$9.95) has Holmes and Watson in London in the 1890s, investigating a series of murders committed by the Tarot Master.

662. Dec 16 #6 Bernard Fox died on Dec. 14. He started his acting career in British repertory theater and went on to many supporting roles on screen and in television. Best known as Colonel Crittenden in "Hogan's Heroes" (1965) and Dr. Bombay in "Bewitched" 1967), he also played Dr. Watson in Stewart Granger's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972).

663. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Edison Theatre in Mammoth Lakes, Calif, Feb. 9-12, 2017 <www.edisontheatre.org>; at the PBK Memorial Hall at William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., Apr. 20-23 <www.events.wm.edu>; at the Playhouse in the Park in Cincinnati, Ohio, Apr. 22 to May 20 <www.cincyplay.com>; at the Hanesbrands Theatre in Winston-Salem, N.C., June 2-11 <www.twincitystage.org>; at the Pioneer Playhouse in Danville, Ky., July 25-Aug. 5 <www.pioneerplayhouse.com>; and at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre in Ashland, Ore., Sept. 14-Nov. 5 <www.oregoncabaret.com>.
664. "The Devil's Acre: A Sherlock Holmes/Jekyll and Hyde Mystery" (a new play by John Martin) will be performed during the Adelaide Fringe Festival, Feb. 25-Mar. 11 <www.adelaidefringe.com.au>.
665. Geoffrey Sherman's new play "Sherlock Holmes" is due at the State Theatre in Montgomery, Ala., Mar. 9-May 7 <www.asf.net>.
666. John K. Alvarez's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Discarded Woman" will be performed during the "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., Mar. 17-19 <www.tinyurl.com/h7syt4h>. The weekend event is arranged by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities, and includes a Search for Clues on Mar. 18.
667. The American Lyric Theater has scheduled "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Fallen Giant" (a new opera by composer Evan Meier and librettist E. M. Lewis) at the Merkin Concert Hall in the Kaufman Music Center in New York on Mar. 26 <www.altnyc.org>.
668. The Arizona Theatre Company will present the premiere of Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" from Apr. 15 to May 6 in Tucson, and May 11-28 in Phoenix <www.arizonatheatre.org>; Watson takes on the case of Sherlock Holmes' supposed death. Hatcher wrote the plays "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" (2011) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" (2015), and the screenplay for the film "Mr. Holmes" (2015), and he was the distinguished lecturer at the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York last January.
669. "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized from Nicholas Meyer's novel by Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge) will be performed at Rover Dramawerks in Plano, Tex., Oct. 26-Nov. 18 <www.roverdramawerks.com>.
670. The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, offering Sherlockian artwork on the cover, pastiches by Terence Faherty and Jonathan Turner, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.

Jan 17 #1

1. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 163rd birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 4 to Jan. 8. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Annie Moore's, and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's).
 2. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Sara Paretsky, author of the continuing series of novels about private eye V. I. Warshawski; her lecture was about Victorian women crime writers, and it will be published in The Baker Street Journal. This year the event was held at the Yale Club, a convenient venue that offered room for an audience of more than 200.
 3. The William Gillette Luncheon at Connolly's was well attended, as always, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street entertained the audience with an updated look at Sherlock Holmes' encounters with the telephone. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan WHIMSEY Award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year: the winner was Bob Stek, who received both a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
 4. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Al Rosenblatt proposed the traditional pre-prandial first toast to Nancy Boote as The Woman. The annual-dinner agenda featured Steve Rothman's discussion of "Why January 6th?", the traditional BSI toasts and rituals, an imaginative performance (inspired by Rex Stout's classic suggestion that "Watson Was a Women") by Sarah Montague, Paul Singleton, and Andrew Joffe, and a Shakespearean explication by Tim Greer.
 5. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented Steve Rothman with an engraved crystal Milestone Award, honoring him as the longest serving editor of The Baker Street Journal, and made a Two-Shilling Award to Ben Vizoskie. This year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were awarded to Ross Davies ("The Temple"), Tamar Zeffren ("The London Library"), Chris Zordan ("Bunsen Burner"), Charles Blanksteen ("Cavendish Square"), Bonnie MacBird ("Art in the Blood"), Michael Quigley ("A Large Brass-Bound Safe"), and Charles Prepolec ("The Man with the Twisted Lip"). And near the end of the evening Mike Whelan received a Golden Sovereign from the Baker Street Irregulars, honoring his twenty as the leader of the society.
 6. An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at Annie Moore's, where the agenda included traditional (and untraditional) toasts, quizzes, songs, dramatic readings, and much much more.
 7. Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots.
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8. Jan 17 #2 On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured a performance of Headon Hill's "The Tenth Green" (edited by George Vanderburgh and Carol Cavalluzzi, and adapted by Bill Hyder).
 9. The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; Bill Mason was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check and an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2016. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of tickets for the raffle prize (jewelry from "A Study in Scarlet" created by Maggie Schpak), and an auction of attractive donations to the Fund.
 10. The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Churchill Tavern.
 11. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 12, 2018. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 6, 2018.
 12. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$41.95 (to the U.S.) or \$55.00 (elsewhere); you can pay by check sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), or by credit card or PayPal at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSI, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.

13. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) his 2017 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 have received Irregular Shillings).
 14. DANCING TO DEATH is the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series (2016; 234 pp., \$39.95); edited by Ray Betzner and David F. Morrill, it features a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Dancing Men", an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on the manuscript and on the story, and a nice surprise if you carefully remove the dust jacket to inspect the cloth binding. Details on the book, including the table of contents are available at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
 15. Also from the BSI: CANADA AND SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Peter Calamai and Mark Alberstat (2016; 232 pp., \$39.95); the sixth volume in the BSI's International Series offers a splendid selection of scholarly, whimsical, artistic, poetical, and musical contributions from a country that Conan Doyle happily visited four times.
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16. Jan 17 #3 Researchers at Ancestry have reported that Benedict Cumberbatch and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle are related: they are 16th cousins, twice removed, and their common ancestor was John of Gaunt, the 1st Duke of Lancaster and fourth son of King Edward III (who ruled from 1327 to 1377). John of Gaunt had that name not because he was thin, but rather because he was born in Ghent (when people didn't spell as well as they do now). His oldest son and heir was Henry Bolingbroke, who overthrew King Richard II to become King Henry IV. Ancestry <www.ancestry.com> is a useful web-site for anyone who is pursuing ancestors.
 17. The first episode of the new season of "Sherlock" was the most-watched television program in Britain on New Year's Day, with 8.1 million viewers and a 32.8% share of the viewing audience, according to the Guardian. And the show was the second most popular program of the holiday period, beaten only by the New Year's Eve countdown and midnight fireworks.
 18. Season 4 of "Sherlock" has aired, and you either watched it or you didn't, and if you did watch, you either enjoyed it or you didn't, and you may or may not be waiting for the next season, but in the meantime you may want to look for "The Mrs. Hudson Adventures Annual 2017"; the cover was created by Andrew-Mark Thompson, who describes himself as a 51-year-old former teenager based in the city of Derby. His principal interest is in Doctor Who <www.andydrewz64.blogspot.com>.
 19. And it should be noted that presidential candidates aren't the only targets of Russian hackers: the final episode of the fourth season was uploaded to the Internet 24 hours before it was broadcast by the BBC. Series producer Sue Vertue tweeted that the leak had come from Russia, and asked fans not to share it.
 20. Needless to say, the BBC Shop <www.shop.bbc.com> offers the series on DVD and Blu-ray, along with other merchandise that includes a Sherlock Holmes desk magnifier, a deerstalker in grey tweed, and a Sherlock Holmes infinity book scarf with text from "The Hound of the Baskervilles".
 21. The classic "crime green" cover of the Penguin edition of THE CASE-BOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES also is available as an umbrella (£14.99), a mug (£8.99), a tote bag (£12.95), and a notebook (£8.99), at British bookstores and at the Penguin web-site <https://shop.penguin.co.uk/search?q=sherlock+homes>.
 22. VisitEngland has declared 2017 the "Year of Literary Heroes," celebrating "some of the publishing phenomena that have helped put England on the map." One of the heroes is Sherlock Holmes, and VisitEngland has noted that this year is the 125th anniversary of the publication of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES <www.tinyurl.com/god27gp>.
 23. Don "Duck" Edwing died on Dec. 26. He was a gag cartoonist for Mad Magazine from 1962 to 2012. He used a duck as his signature and had duck calls on his answering machine (his wife Claire was known as Cluck Edwing), and his "The Adventures of Headlock Holmes" appeared in DUCK EDWING'S MADVENTURES OF ALMOST SUPERHEROES (1990), and "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes (Headlock Holmes' Ugly Sister)" in MAD'S CREATURE PRESENTATION (1993).
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24. Jan 17 #4 The Detection Club, founded in London in 1930, has honored Peter Lovesey (its current president) with MOTIVES FOR MURDER, an anthology of new stories written by its members, edited by Martin Edwards (London: Sphere, 2016; 416 pp., £9.99) (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 317 pp., \$19.00); the American edition also is available cloth-bound and signed by Lovesey and Edwards (\$45.00) <www.crippenandlandru.com>. The stories are nicely done, and they include David Stuart Davies' pastiche "The Adventure of the Marie Antoinette Necklace: A Case for Sherlock Holmes".
 25. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere," including South Australia, noted by Howard Ostrom <www.tinyurl.com/gpedrtb>. The Hundred of Sherlock was proclaimed in 1899 and named after one of South Australia governor Sir Thomas Foxwell Buxton's friends.
 26. Mitch Higurashi has been busy making sure that Japanese readers have access to Sherlockiana: he has translated David Marcum's THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (Hara Shobo, 2016); David Stuart Davies' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOKS (Sanseido, 2016); Bonnie MacBird's ART IN THE BLOOD (HarperCollins Japan, 2015); Daniel Smith's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION (Kokusho Kankokai, 2016); THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES OF EDWARD D. HOCH (Hara Shobo, 2012); Carole Nelson Douglas' GOOD MORNING, IRENE (Tokyo Sogensha, 2013); Maurice Leblanc's ARSENE LUPIN CONTRE HERLOCK SHOLMES: LA DAME BLONDE (Kodansha, 2014); Alex Werner's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MAN WHO NEVER LIVED AND WILL NEVER DIE [the catalog of the exhibition at the Museum of London] (Hara Shobo, 2016); and Maria Konnikova's MASTERMIND (Hayakawa Shobo, 2016).
 27. And there's more from Japan: NHK PUPPET ENTERTAINMENT SHERLOCK HOLMES FAN BOOK (Shogakukan, 2014) and NHK PUPPET ENTERTAINMENT SHERLOCK HOLMES MEMORIAL BOOK (Shogakukan, 2015) [tie-ins for Koki Mitani's delightful television puppet series]; and (last but certainly not least) Mitch's own essays SHERLOCKIAN HONYAKUKA SAISHO NO AISATSU [THE FIRST BOW BY A JAPANESE TRANSLATOR] (Hara Shobo, 2013).
 28. "Fog and Ribbon" promises "A Lovely Time for Bibliophiles" at both their shop in Tokyo and on-line <www.kiri-to-ribbon.com>, and there are three teas in their "An Ode to Sherlock Holmes" offers: attractive packages of "Mycroft at the Diogenes Club", "Mrs. Hudson Breakfast" and "Moriarty London". There also are "Three to One, However" and "Earl Grey Good and Noble" (honoring Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men in a Boat").
 29. A bit of history about Naval Support Facility Thurmont, the official name for the military installation that's now called as Camp David. First known as Camp Hi-Catocin, it was built by the Civilian Construction Corps as a camp for federal government agents and their families (construction started in 1938 and was completed in 1938). Warren Randall has noted that Douglas Brinkley, in his new RIGHTFUL HERITAGE: FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AND THE LAND OF AMERICA (2016), reports that when FDR first visited Hi-Catocin, he exclaimed, "This is a Shangri-La." FDR was a Sherlockian, and eventually an honorary member of The Baker Street Irregulars, and it amused him to have his Secret Service agents at his presidential retreat living in cabins on Baker Street, as you can see on the official map of Shangri-La, first published in Life magazine on Oct. 15, 1945.
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30. Jan 17 #5 Watson's Tin Box will host the tenth "Scintillation of Scions" on June 9-10, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It is an entertaining gathering of both local and far-flung Sherlockians, with a fine list of speakers <www.tinyurl.com/grzzllu>, and registration is now open; the event sells out early and you're advised not to wait to reserve.

31. The conference of The Reichenbach Irregulars ("Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited") will be held in Hasliberg-Reuti (near Meiringen in Switzerland, Aug. 31-Sept. 3 <www.221b.ch>, and it will be followed by Uno Studio in Holmes' conference ("Another Week Later") in Florence, Italy, Sept. 8-10 <www.unostudioinholmes.org>; previous conferences by both societies have been thoroughly enjoyable, and this year they are commemorating the beginning of The Great Hiatus.
 32. Paul D. Herbert's UNMITIGATED BLEAT: SELECTED WRITINGS ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2017; 221 pp., \$19.95) is a welcome collection of the work of a long-time Sherlockian (his first article appeared in The Baker Street Journal in 1974); Paul's interests and research have been varied indeed, and the results are both insightful and entertaining. Gasogene is at <www.gasogenebooks.com>.
 33. Also from Gasogene: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, VOLUME 3, JULY-DECEMBER 1893, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström and Matt Laffey (2017; 226 pp., \$32.95); it's often suggested that journalism is the first rough draft of history, and this new volume in the series offers an excellent look at what was being said about Holmes and Conan Doyle in newspapers and magazines (in her perceptive introduction, Anastasia Klimchynskaya notes that they were the mass media in Victorian times, much like the Internet today).
 34. CBC News British Columbia has reported that a group of amateur filmmakers are planning a movie in western Canada that will dramatize Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" (published in THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1988 and reprinted in his NIGHTMARE AND DREAMSCAPES in 1993); the story is at <www.tinyurl.com/hyowhvt>.
 35. The Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. has launched a new web-site promoting its new "legacy brand" www.conandoyleestate.com
 36. "Clever Criminals and Daring Detectives" is the title of the next exhibition at the Rosenbach in Philadelphia <www.tinyurl.com/zwr8zxe> from Apr. 8 to Sept. 1. The treasures on display will include the manuscript of "The Empty House" and Ellery Queen's thoughts on collecting detective fiction, and everyone is invited to "A Sherlock Holmes Rosenbachanal" at the Rittenhouse Hotel on May 1 <www.tinyurl.com/hyq3w26> (the event is the Rosenbach's annual gala); Dan Stashower will be the guest speaker, and single tickets are available for \$500 each).
 37. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" (best television episode/teleplay) and Lyndsay Faye's (non-Sherlockian) JANE STEELE (best novel); winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 17.
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38. Jan 17 #6 LE DÉTECTIVE DÉTRAQUÉ, OU LES MÉSAVENTURES DE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Paris: Éditions Baker Street, 2016; 286 pp., €18.00) is a nice anthology, edited by Cynthia Liebow and dedicated to her father Ely Liebow, offering pastiches and parodies that were published from 1892 to 2012, in English (now translated) or in French. She also has published L'AFFAIRE DE LA BELLE ÉVAPORÉE (2016; 336 pp., €21.00), a translation of J. J. Murphy's A FRIENDLY GAME OF MURDER (Jun 13 #4), a title in her "Algonquin Round Table Mysteries" series that features Dorothy Parker, Arthur Conan Doyle, and many others. Her web-site's at <www.editionsbakerstreet.com>.
 39. As usual, some theatrical news: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is being performed at the Heritage Center Theatre in Morrisville, Pa., through Feb. 5 <www.actorsnetbucks.org>.
 40. The Cascade Theatre's production of Ken Ludwig's comedy "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Riverfront Playhouse in Redding, Calif., through Feb. 11 <www.cascadetheatre.org>. And the Somerset Valley Players' production is running at the Somerset Valley Playhouse in Hillsborough, N.J. through Feb. 12 <www.svptheatre.org>.
 41. Gayle Stahlhuth's radio-theater dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes: Adventure of the Red-Headed League" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 17-18 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
 42. Greg Ruby reports that The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will hold dinner meetings this year, at the National Money Show in Orlando, on Mar. 10 and at the World's Fair of Money in Denver on Aug. 2. Details available at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb www.fourthgarrideb.com
 43. The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds>.
 44. For the completists: the Unemployed Philosophers Guild's "Magnetic personalities" Sherlock Holmes finger puppet (or refrigerator magnet) now has a variant: the first version (Dec 06 #7) wore a green deerstalker and cape, and the new version is dressed in brown <www.philosophersguild.com>.
 45. The new tenants of The Royal Oak, a pub in Ashburton, Newton Abbot, plan to reopen the pub in February, with a Hound of the Baskervilles theme that's thoroughly appropriate, since Ashburton is located on the southeastern edge of Dartmoor.
 46. Howard Ostrom has revised and expanded his "Footprints on Film" examination of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on film and television, which now has 66 dramatizations, pastiches, and parodies <www.tinyurl.com/zxa67ug>. He has many other interesting data-bases available at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.nphl.co.uk>.
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47. Feb 17 #1 Little is known about the Sherlok Holmes Club, which appears to have been a social club in Germany in the early 1900s; there's a green postcard listing some of its members, and Nicole Gluecklich, of the Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft, would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has a copy of the postcard, or any information about the society or its members. You can contact her at <n.gluecklich@sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de>.
 48. The Retired Beekeepers of Sussex, an all-inclusive Sherlockian society for members of the LBGTQ+ community, have now published their fourth Practical Handbook of Bee Culture (with the theme "A Small Farm Upon the Downs) with 41 pages that include poetry, artwork, and pastiche; all four issues of the handbook are available at <www.retiredbeekeepers.tumblr.com>.
 49. Monica Schmidt's presentation ("The Seven-Per-Evaluation: A DSM-5 Analysis of Sherlock Holmes' Cocaine Use") at the Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis in 2016 offered a truly professional examination of the topic, and it is conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jlxaq38>.
 50. "Have You a Tamerlane in Your Attic?" was the title of Vincent Starrett's article in the Saturday Evening Post (on June 27, 1925); at the time there were only four known copies of Edgar Allan Poe's first-published poems, and Starrett hoped that a nation-wide search would turn up a fifth copy of the pamphlet. What happened next is an interesting story, and Ray Betzner has told it well at his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com>.
 51. Real Wood Crafts <www.tinyurl.com/zak78ss> offers some interesting and attractive Sherlockian items such as bookmarks and name signs. Albert Baggetta is the craftsman, and he does custom work as well.
 52. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the Fleet Science Center in San Diego, Calif., on Feb. 11, and will run through June 4 <www.rhfleet.org/exhibitions/sherlock-holmes-clocktower-mystery>.
 53. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have launched a weekly 15-minute podcast called "Trifles" <www.sherlockholmespodcast.com> that focuses on the Canon, with discussion of "details, questions, and conundrums" in the stories. They're not neglecting their longer twice-a-month "I Hear of Sherlock

- Everywhere" podcast that covers "the intersection of Sherlock Holmes and popular culture" <www.ihearofsherlock.com>, and both of their podcasts are interesting and entertaining.
54. William R. Cochran's *THE BREND CODE AND "THE SECOND STAIN"* (2015) is now in a revised second edition; the 60-page monograph costs \$20.00 postpaid, and Bill is having great fun with Sherlockian scholarship.
 55. R. H. Thompson will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 20 at the Toronto Reference Library; his topic will be "War, Words & Writers: 100 Years on at Vimy, Passchendaele and Hill 70" (discussion how writers like Conan Doyle can influence the way we view history, in the context of the key battles of 1917 <www.acdfriends.org>).

 56. Feb 17 #2 Admirers of Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke will be pleased by Alexander Orlov's report that the audio recording of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (made by Lisa Woods and Linda Pritchard on Mar. 20, 1989), has been re-mastered by Alison Carter, who has posted it on the Internet at SoundCloud at <www.tinyurl.com/zgvmdsn> and at <www.tinyurl.com/hc33c44>.
 57. The model of the Arctic Whale Ship Hope (on which Conan Doyle sailed as the ship's surgeon), at auction on Jan. 11 (Dec 16 #1) sold for \$5,312 (including the buyer's premium); a model of a Peterhead whaleboat sold for \$1,375.
 58. "Nobody shoplifts from a store that knows 3,214 ways to murder someone" is the lede on the story in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 1) www.tinyurl.com/j3lvahz about The Mysterious Bookshop, whose proprietor Otto Penzler notes that detective stories "are essentially fairy tales ... they're the battle between good and evil."
 59. The Baskerville Hall Club (in Sweden) recently posted an intriguing image of the cover of a Super-Team Family comic book that featured Batman and Sherlock Holmes in "An Empty Grave in Gotham!" Super-Team Family was a comic-book anthology series published by DC Comics from 1974 to 1978, with 15 issues; none of them had this cover. But there is a delightful web-site for Super-Team Family...The Lost Issues! that tries "to spark the imagination with what could have been," and is quite successful at it, offering a new cover every day. Ross Pearsall has created three Sherlockian covers (the others pair Holmes with Daredevil and with Detective Chimp <www.tinyurl.com/jomgmhf>, and Pearsall has great fun with his ghostly comic-book match-ups.
 60. Barbara Hale died on Jan. 26. She began her acting career on screen, but is best known as Della Street, secretary to Raymond Burr's Perry Mason, in a long running television series and then in a series of television films. It was in "Perry Mason: The Case of the Reckless Romeo" (1992) that she had a delightfully Sherlockian exchange with her boss; the film's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/zopqlen>, and the dialogue is timed at 1:30:25.
 61. It's not true that computers have taken over Sherlockian game-playing: Keifer Art has developed an interesting "collaborative moving board game" that can be played (and enjoyed) more than once (\$34.99). "Sherlock Holmes and Moriarty's Web" can be ordered at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j22evsn>, where there are a trailer, instructions, interviews and podcasts.
 62. "Save the date," says Susan Diamond: the 58th annual running of the Silver Blaze in Chicago will be on Oct. 14 at the Hawthorne Race Course.
 63. Variety has reported (Feb. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/z5nmgy2> that Snapper Films has unveiled plans for "Sherlock North", a new ten-hour television series that has Holmes in Lapland, in northern Finland, during the Great Hiatus. According to Snapper Films <www.snapperfilms.com/project/sherlock-north>, the film's premise is "Consulting detective Mr. Sherlock Holmes in subzero Northern Scandinavia, featuring a female Dr. Watson from Finland, and the coldest Moriarty you have ever seen."

 64. Feb 17 #3 "Holmes, Sweet Holmes" (a 1968 episode of a Canadian 30-minute television series called "Telescope") presented "a visit with Adrian Conan Doyle" at the Chateau de Lucens, and it's now nicely available in three parts at YouTube; The first part's at <www.tinyurl.com/hllmqpj>, and links to the other two are at the right. There's a lot of Adrian, and a brief view of him driving his Ferrari 250 GTO.
 65. "Was Sherlock Holmes Irish?" is a 48-minute audio documentary posted to the Internet on Jan. 21 by Newstalk in Dublin <www.tinyurl.com/j8s5c96>. Luke McManus produced the documentary, which includes interviews with Owen Dudley Edwards, Des McHale, Clare Clarke, Rob Byrne, Colm McCarthy, and Barry McCrea.
 66. It's not quite the same as a Time magazine "man of the year" issue, but Life magazine has published a special issue offering "the story behind the world's greatest detective" with 96 pages, often in full color (\$13.99); J. J. Baker is the editor and writer, and the issue's now on the newsstands and available at Amazon and elsewhere on the Internet.
 67. Personal detective Sidney Grice and his ward March Middleton are the interesting protagonists in M. R. C. Kasasian's *THE MANGLE STREET MURDERS* (London: Head of Zeus, 2013; 329 pp., £16.99) (New York: Pegasus, 2015; 320 pp., \$25.95) (there are trade paperbacks available); the story is set in London in 1882, and there's an amusing brief appearance in chapter 68 by a doctor who will be familiar to all Sherlockians.
 68. Joe Petrosino, an Italian immigrant who joined the New York Police Department and in 1908 was placed in charge of the NYPD's Italian Squad (which was charged with battling the Camorra, the Mafia, and other criminal organizations, was murdered in Palermo in 1909; he was a national hero in Italy (where he was known as "Il Sherlock Holmes d'Italia") and he was the hero of "Il Piccolo Sherlock Holmes" (1909), a one-reel Italian film released in the U.S. as "The Italian Sherlock Holmes" (1910). Stephan Talty's new book *THE BLACK HAND: THE EPIC WAR BETWEEN A BRILLIANT DETECTIVE AND THE DEADLIEST SECRET SOCIETY IN AMERICAN HISTORY* (2017) has been bought by Paramount Pictures for a film that will star Leonard Dicaprio.
 69. Christopher Morley (who founded The Baker Street Irregulars) loved Sherlock Holmes, of course, and many other things, including journalism, travel, and (especially) trains; he wrote about trains in an era when they were magic carpets for travelers, and you can read some of the best of what he had to say about them in *MR. MORLEY TAKES THE TRAIN*, edited by Jon Lellenberg and Donald Pollock (Mainline Press, 2016; 171 pp., \$14.95).
 70. What goes around, comes around, at least for Guy Henry. The web-site Empire reports <www.tinyurl.com/zl99n9u> that "Rogue One" director Gareth Edwards said that Henry (who succeeds Peter Cushing as Grand Moff Tarkin in "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story") was cast because of Sherlock Holmes. Henry played Holmes in the Granada television series "Young Sherlock" (1982) and "got into the role" by watching Cushing in Sherlockian films; Henry "kept Cushing in him throughout the years," and when Edwards saw a clip of Henry, that was enough to persuade Edwards to cast Henry as Tarkin.

 71. Feb 17 #4 The Baker Street Irregulars' "Behind the Canonical Screen" conference at UCLA in 2012 included presentations by Lyndsay Faye ("The Women: Sex and Success in the Canon, BBC, and Warner Brothers") and Ashley Polasek ("The Evolving Role of Women in Sherlockian Film"), and you can see what they had to say uploaded at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/hbujuyb and <www.tinyurl.com/h4p2ono> and <www.tinyurl.com/jshpgth>.
 72. Sony Pictures has announced Aug. 3, 2018, as the release date for their new film "Holmes & Watson" (the comedy starring Will Ferrell as Holmes and John Reilly as Watson); the cast also includes Ralph Fiennes, Rebecca Hall, Hugh Laurie, and Kelly Macdonald.
 73. The East Haddam Stage Company, now officially known as the Resident Theatre Company at Gillette Castle State Park, has announced that their summer season will include weekend performances of Kandie Carle's "William Gillette: Senator's Son to Super Sleuth". They will also tour New England with their "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" this fall.

74. Jennie Paton has found an interesting example of Sherlockian publicity: a facsimile five-dollar bill promoting "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes" at the Imperial Theatre. We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who can identify when and where and why it was used.
75. The Sherlocks (the Sherlock Consortium for Investigation) were seen on an episode ("16 Years") of NCIS on CBS-TV last year, and they're back in a new episode ("Nonstop") that was broadcast on Feb. 7 and may still be available at <www.tinyurl.com/jfol82u>.
76. A query about Argosy: The All-Fiction Magazine (published quarterly by Richard Kyle Publications): the Aug. 1991 issue had an attractive Sherlockian cover by Jim Steranko, and Part One of Ellery Queen's "A Study in Terror"; was the next issue, with Part Two, ever published? If so, when?
77. BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY: THE HOWLING HOUNDS is the second series of amusing comic strips created by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason; you can see the 2015 and 2016 strips (and some character profiles) at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf>.
78. "Life Imitates Art: Silver Blaze Division" is the comment by Kate Karlson on a story in the Feb. 9 issue of the Daily Racing Form about the suspension of a horse identifier at Delta Downs in Louisiana and an investigation into the possibility that two horses made starts in the state under swapped identities <www.tinyurl.com/zl3o5rl>. It appears that the horse identifier did not check the lip tattoos on the horses involved in the scheme.

79. Feb 17 #5 Ann Milam notes an interesting Smithsonian magazine on-line article <www.tinyurl.com/jf5ecy5> about "the seedy reality of a London long gone"; Charles Booth's classic INQUIRY INTO LIFE AND LABOUR IN LONDON has been catalogued and digitized, and you can now view the poverty maps and police notebooks that describe the streets and street life of London between 1898 and 1900. They portray the London of Sherlock Holmes in a way one doesn't find in the Canon.
80. "Second Holmes" (the BBC's 1983 series, written by Grant Eustace, about the grandsons of Holmes and Watson) is being repeated by BBC Radio 4 Extra, and you can listen to all six episodes at www.tinyurl.com/gwmgt4
81. BAKER STREET IRREGULARS is a new anthology edited by Michael A. Ventrella and Jonathan Maberry (New York: Diversion Books, 2017; 302 pp., \$16.99); it offers "thirteen authors with new takes on Sherlock Holmes," and their versions of Holmes are new (and decidedly different), including his being the host of a reality show, a vampire, and an eighteen-year old female college student.
82. Ron Lies <relies1@msn.com> would like to hear from those who shares his interest in Sherlockian jigsaw puzzles, and who would like to buy, trade, or sell duplicates.
83. Thierry Saint-Joanis reports a delightful example of what can be done with modern computer technology: an article at the 80 Level web-site on "Building Sherlock Holmes' Flat in 3D" <www.tinyurl.com/hqktvk8>. Elliot Lambert (a junior CGI artist at Whitecrow Studios in England) explains what he did, and how he did it, and has a brief video of the results.
84. "London Police Get Sherlock Holmes-Era Guns Off the Streets" was the headline on a story at Guns.com (Feb. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/zhtw7zu>; one of the guns shown was a Webley Bulldog. "Paging Dr. Watson," the web-site notes. "Mickey Spillane and his ilk killed Sherlock Holmes," Basil Rathbone once said, according to Heritage Auctions in its description of a pair of fencing foils given to Spillane by Rathbone, scheduled for auction on Mar. 8. But Spillane was kinder to Rathbone, saying that "he was the neatest fellow around, kind, considerate" <www.tinyurl.com/hng75b8>.
85. "What's Sherlock Holmes Got to Do with Teesside?" asked the Daily Mail in a story (Feb. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/jnap82w> about angry complaints from Middlesbrough locals when the local council spent taxpayers' money on literacy-inspired artworks that include a mural that displays a page from "The Five Orange Pips"; actually, there is a connection: Conan Doyle's brother-in-law E. W. Hornung was born in Middlesbrough, and the town has an Orange Pip Market on Baker Street.
86. Miniaturists continue to have fun with Sherlock Holmes: Orsi Skultéti has created a spectacular miniature version of the kitchen at 221B Baker Street (as in the BBC's "Sherlock" series), shown in full color in articles in The Dolls' House Magazine (Feb. 2014) and American Miniaturist (Feb. 2017); one (and perhaps both, when her web-site's updated) of the articles can be seen at <www.orsiminiatures.com>.

87. Feb 17 #6 The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State (which commemorates the life and work of Christopher Morley) will hold its annual Morley Birthday Lunch at Arthur's Restaurant in the Sacred City of Hoboken on Apr. 30, and more information about the event is available from Terry and Linda Hunt <18goldini95@gmail.com>.
88. Lloyd Rose reports that the BBC has made the scripts for the first season of "Sherlock" available for download (free) at its Writersroom web-site at <www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/scripts/sherlock>. Their Scripts Library offers other scripts from its TV Drama archive (for those who have other favorite shows).
89. Crowborough will hold its first community festival May 1-27, according to a report in the Kent and Sussex Courier <www.tinyurl.com/jr6nmsq>; the festival will include "Beyond Baker Street" (an improvised theatrical experience with actors scattered throughout the town, a Sherlock Holmes trail, a workshop themed around "The Lost World", and a talk by Conan Doyle biographer Andrew Lycett.
90. The Baker Street Players are presenting Stuart Kaminsky's "The Final Toast" at the Hein & Co. Bookstore in Jackson, Calif., through Mar. 4, and on other weekends in 2017 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
91. "Shamrock Holmes" (a new play by Penny Kohut) will be performed at Theatre-NOW in Wilmington, N.C., through Mar. 25 <www.theatrewilmington.com>.
92. C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes: John Watson's Body" [don't worry: Watson isn't dead] is running at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Tex., through Mar. 25 <www.theatresuburbia.org>.
93. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Kansas City Kansas Community College Performing Arts Center, Mar. 2-5 <www.tinyurl.com/h5kp9sf>. And at the Center Stage of the Community Light Opera and Theatre Association in Ridgecrest, Calif., Mar. 17-Apr. 1 <www.facebook.com/RCCLOTA>.
94. "Sherlock Holmes" (Geoffrey Sherman's new adaptation of William Gillette's play) will be performed at the State Theatre in Montgomery, Ala., Mar. 8-May 13 <www.asf.net/project/sherlock-holmes>.
95. The Baker Street Players will present Beth Barnard's dinner mystery theatre "Murdering Moriarty" at the National Hotel in Jackson, Calif., on Mar. 11 and 25, and Apr. 1 and 8 <www.bakerstreetwest.com/events>.
96. Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be presented at the Riverhead Theatre in Louth, Lincs., Mar. 13-18 <www.louthplaygoers.com>.
97. "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem (a new dramatization by Tal Aviezer) is due at Cahill Theatre at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y., Apr. 1-23 <www.redmonkeytheater.org>.

98. Mar 17 #1 Stephen Fry has recorded the complete Canon, with his own introductions for each of the nine volumes, for Audible: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION <www.tinyurl.com/zmjpanq> costs \$82.77 (or free with a 30-day trial membership), and there's a five-minute sample at

- the Audible web-site. A Google search for [stephen fry sherlock holmes] will turn up video. Note: there are two variants, and you need to be sure that you're getting the one that runs 71 hours and 58 minutes.
99. GOTHIC TALES, edited by Darryl L. Jones (London: Oxford Univ. Press, 2016; 549 pp., \$27.95), is an imaginative collection of Gothic stories written by Conan Doyle, who is described by Jones as "the greatest genre writer Britain has ever produced." There are 34 stories in this Oxford World's Classics volume, and Jones has supplied an interesting introduction and careful explanatory notes for each of the stories.
 100. Phil Attwell reports that the BBC and Radio Times Television Festival upcoming in London includes three Sherlockian events of interest on Apr. 9: "Mark Gatiss: From League of Gentlemen to Sherlock" (interviewed by Alison Graham), "The Sound of Sherlock" (a panel with Mark Gatiss, Sue Vertue, and composers David Arnold and Michael Price), and "Gala Event: Steven Moffat in Conversation with Frank Skinner" <www.tinyurl.com/jrp7dgc>.
 101. There is a Klingon translation of "The Blue Carbuncle" (done by Bing, with assistance from Karen Ellery) <www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt>, but there's also an empty eBook case labeled "Sherlock Holmes" in Klingon, used as set decoration in Trip Tucker's quarters (in the television series "Star Trek: Enterprise"), included in a collection of eBook cases at auction at Propworx this month <www.tinyurl.com/jukmwws>; the lot sold for \$500 (plus the 23% buyer's premium). There were four seasons of the series, with 98 episodes, so there's plenty to do if anyone wants to confirm that the eBook case actually was seen in the series.
 102. How many actors who have played Holmes or Watson have won Oscars? Not for Sherlockian roles, since no one has, but Howard Ostrom has identified more than 20 actors who have won Oscars for non-Sherlockian work, and discusses them in an interesting 15-minute video "Watson, the Envelope, Please" that is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jgu9ph3>.
 103. "Erkunde Leute, Die Britische Polizei und noch mehr!" [or Explore People, the British Police, and more!] is the title of an interesting collection of 19th- and 20th-century images recently posted at the Pinterest web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/za37nxq>.
 104. David Shepard died on Jan. 31. He was a dedicated film preservationist who began buying old films as a teenager, with money earned from his newspaper route; he went on to work for the American Film Institute, and then joined Blackhawk Films, where in the 1970s he was instrumental in finding and restoring the Fox-Case Movietone newsreel interview with Conan Doyle that was released in 1929. His obituary in the N.Y. Times www.tinyurl.com/hpoymm8 is well worth reading, and you can listen to him talk about his career in a Modern Times Podcast <www.tinyurl.com/gworeqc>.
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105. Mar 17 #2 Reported: SCIENTIFIC ROMANCE: AN INTERNATIONAL ANTHOLOGY OF PIONEERING SCIENCE FICTION, edited by Brian Stableford (New York: Dover, 2017; 335 pp., \$14.95); "scientific romance" is what its early fans called the genre until Hugo Gernsback coined the word "scientifiction" (for what is now called "science fiction"), and the anthology begins with Poe's "The Conversation of Eiros and Charmion" (1839) and ends with Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights" (1913).
 106. "Treasury of Literature" (described as an integrated reading and language arts program offering a wealth of literature to touch the hearts and minds of its readers) was launched in 1995 by Harcourt Brace & Company, and the Teacher's Edition for VOICES AND REFLECTIONS: VOLUME ONE includes two Sherlockian items: T. S. Eliot's "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" (with drawings by Edward Gorey) and the Michael and Mollie Hardwick radio play "The Speckled Band" (with full-color illustrations by Sergio Martinez); it's out of print but possibly available at Abebooks and elsewhere on-line. Martinez's artwork is attractive, and appears not to have been published elsewhere. And there's also a boxed set with two Literature Cassettes; one of the audiocassettes includes readings of both items.
 107. Robert Osborne died on Mar. 6. He was an actor, a film critic for the Hollywood Reporter for 26 years, a dedicated film historian, and since 1994 a genial host for films (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian) broadcast by Turner Classic Movies.
 108. Further to the report (Feb 12 #4) on the first time that Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller played the same role (before they played Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock" and "Elementary"): Jenny Paton notes that their performances alternating as Frankenstein and the Creature in the National Theatre's production of "Frankenstein" in London in 2011 are now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/gtmdfuz> and www.tinyurl.com/z5pksfw>.
 109. "Discover your Sherlock Holmes story name" is the offer made by Epic Reads <www.tinyurl.com/hm4uxew>, kindly reported by Dan Stashower. "The Incident of the Insidious Meme" would be Sherlock Holmes' story name. Mine is "The Tragedy of the Meticulous Toaster".
 110. Larry Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE EISENDORF ENIGMA (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2017; 226 pp., \$25.95) is the latest in his series of well-written mysteries about Holmes, Watson, and Shadwell Rafferty; Holmes, who is now 66 and suffering from emphysema, has returned to the Mayo Clinic for treatment, and winds up in pursuit of the Munich Monster (a serial killer Holmes failed to capture in 1892).
 111. Jim French's Imagination Theater has ended its 17-year run of live recordings. He began his radio career in 1943, served with Armed Forces Radio in Japan, settled in Seattle, and went on to write and produce nearly 500 original shows, including "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", a series which now includes dramatizations of the entire Canon, all adapted by M. J. Elliot and starring John Patrick Lowrie as Holmes and Larry Albert as Watson. The program logs at <www.old-time.com/otrlogs2> offer details on his broadcasts (see "Jim French Shows", "The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", and "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes").
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112. Mar 17 #3 Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, are at work again in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's THE DANGEROUS LADIES AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2017; 252 pp., \$25.99), the fifth in their entertaining series; Sabina and John again have separate mysteries to solve, and there's blackmail and attempted murder, and (as usual) an interesting look at turn-of-the-century San Francisco.
 113. Bill Barnes reports an article in the Australian press that was headlined "Sherlock Holmes to Suss out the Valley"; not the Valley Fear, but rather the Moonee Valley Racecourse in Melbourne. And this Sherlock Holmes is an Irish-born five-year-old gelding who's not doing as well in Australia as he did in Ireland <www.tinyurl.com/jp4yytw>.
 114. "With Sherlock Holmes, is pastiche just a fancy word for fanfiction?" asks Lyndsay Faye, who offers advice on "how to successfully imitate Arthur Conan Doyle" at the Literary Hub web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jpnpcng>.
 115. "Trumpets and Confetti" is the title of Laurie R. King's announcement that an English production company has purchased the rights to the Mary Russell stories for a television series that will have Laurie as an active consultant <www.laurierking.com/2017/03/trumpets-russell-holmes>. That's all the news that's fit to print, but more (as they say) to come.
 116. "Pop Sherlock!" is the title of a new exhibition in the TD Gallery at the Toronto Public Library, Aug. 19-Oct. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/grnc2q5>, nicely timed for those attending Bouchercon on Oct. 12-15 www.bouchercon2017.com to see the exhibition (and tour the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection).
 117. Further to the announcement (May 16 #1) of plans for a new "Star Trek: All Access" television series, the series is now called "Star Trek: Discovery" and (according the entry at Wikipedia) filming began last month in Toronto. Nicholas Meyer is the consulting producer, and has written the script for the second episode.

118. Simpson's-in-the-Strand was founded in 1828, and has long been a destination for Sherlockians who want to visit (and dine at) establishments mentioned in the Canon; Simpson's web-site at www.simpsonsinthestrland.co.uk announces that the restaurant will close on Apr. 17 for a six-to-ten-week restoration of the entrance and the Grand Divan.
119. Mattias Boström has reported an interesting article about the Mdivani family in the Dec. 2016 issue Los Angeles Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/mlz5m9e>; the family (known in their time as the "marrying Mdivanis") included Nina, who was married to Denis Conan Doyle. Another article, about Nina and Barbara Hutton, was published in the "Jewels du Jour" blog (Apr. 9, 2014); you can read it at <www.tinyurl.com/mqzvj7k>.
120. "A cunning preparation of phosphorus," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). According to an article in The New Indian Express <www.tinyurl.com/hx8ffl3>, phosphorus was discovered by the German alchemist Hennig Brand in the 17th century, and you can read how he did it in the article (which has the subhead "from pee to P").

121. Mar 17 #4 The notable nerve-regenerative properties of lion's mane mushrooms have drawn the attention of researchers, according to a report in the Huffington Post a while back <www.tinyurl.com/o6se96v>. And you can buy them at local market (for \$15 a pound), according to a recent story in the Portland Oregonian, noted and forwarded by Sonia Fetherston. "You can make a small amount stretch," according to the article, "because they have so much flavor." There is a long entry at Wikipedia, for those who want to know more about a lion's mane rather different from the one in the Canon.
122. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) has a tribute to Marilyn Penner, who has retired after 36 years at the Library (and her imaginative "Canon Fodder" look at "Silver Blaze"), and more news from and about the Library and the Collection; as always, copies of the newsletter can be requested from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
123. THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE COLLECTION, a 93-page pamphlet published by the Friends in 2014 when the new Arthur Conan Doyle Room was opened, described the acquisitions of the Baillie, Mortlake, Bigelow, and Bengis collections; it was a limited edition with only 100 copies, and it's now available on-line as a free download at <www.tinyurl.com/l2up68j>.
124. The 2015 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Clifford S. Goldfarb (about "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo"), and his paper has now been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available to people who join the Friends now. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2016 Memorial Lecture.
125. "I have learned that the world consists of two types of people -- those for whom no explanation for why I collect is necessary, and those for whom no explanation is possible." Clifford S. Goldfarb (in "Arthur Conan Doyle's Waterloo").
126. Reported: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, published this year by W. H. Smith in a yellowback edition that celebrates the 225th anniversary of the founding of the company as a news vendor <www.tinyurl.com/hbhtc6f>. Yellowbacks, described by Richard Altick as "the most inspired publishing invention" of the Victorian era, provided good books at inexpensive prices at newsstands in railway stations. W. H. Smith has much to brag about, including the invention, in 1966, of the nine-digit code for uniquely identifying books that in 1974 became the ISBN system.
127. The famous/infamous "tent joke" is alive and well, in Ray V. Batvinis' FBI Studies blog at <www.tinyurl.com/inv8e68>. A bit of history: the joke was unveiled to The Hounds of the Internet in July 1998, and seems to have appeared in print first in the Reader's Digest (Nov. 1998); it came in second in voting for the world's funniest joke (Oct 02 #1), and possibly now has become the joke that will never die.

128. Mar 17 #5 The autumn issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, Francine Kitts' history of the BSI's "standing on the terrace" ceremony at their annual dinners, and much more; the issue is available both at the BSI Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, you can send a request <editor@bsitrust.org>.
129. Colin Dexter died on Mar. 21. Best known for his 14 novels about Inspector Morse (adapted for the highly popular ITV television series), he also wrote an amusing pastiche "A Case of Mis-Identity" (first published in WINTER'S CRIMES 21 in 1989, and then reprinted in MORSE'S GREATEST MYSTERY AND OTHER STORIES in 1993).
130. Spanish artist Iñaki Aliste Lizarralde has prepared a colorful floor plan for 221B Baker Street as seen in the BBC television series "Sherlock" (he has done the same for Carrie Bradshaw and Mary Richards), and you can see his work at <www.nikneukdeviantart.com>.
131. The Jersey Devil Press, an on-line magazine that's edited by Mike Sweeney, published a 54-page Sherlock Holmes issue in Jan. 2016, and you can read it on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/zfm9tsm>. The magazine is now planning a Victorian Mash-up special issue for Aug. 2017, and has issued a call for submissions <www.jerseydevilpress.com/?p=7476>; their deadline is July 7, and any of the Canonical characters can be combined with other characters from the Victorian era.
132. Michael Sims' ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF HOLMES (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017; 245 pp., \$27.00) is a welcome addition to anyone's shelf of biographies of Conan Doyle; as promised by the subtitle, it explores his early life and career (ending with the publication of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES), Sims offers an interesting and readable account of the world in which Conan Doyle lived, his family, and the inspirations for his Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) writings. Recommended.
133. "Sherlock Holmes' Sublime Failures" is the title of Barry S. Brown's post at <www.tinyurl.com/k55kdgw> (look at the upper left for more Sherlockian posts); he has written four pastiche novels in which Mrs. Hudson's the real detective, and his web-site's at <www.barrysbrown.com>.
134. Dana Gavin, who is researching the experiences of female-identifying fans of Sherlock Holmes for a chapter in an anthology on Geek Feminism, offers an on-line anonymous survey on "Women in the Sherlock Holmes Community"; details are at <www.tinyurl.com/keeedlf>, and the deadline for responses is Apr. 12.
135. Marsha Pollak reports that the Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will be celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, at a meeting on June 29, during the ALA conference in Chicago. The Sub-Librarians are the oldest "professional" Sherlockian society, founded by John Bennett Shaw, and Marsha would welcome congratulatory messages from other societies <mipollak@icloud.com>. If you'd like to attend the festivities, Marsha will be happy to provide details, by e-mail or postal mail (1318 Mildred Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125).

136. Mar 17 #6 Flickering Myth has reported that Action Lab Entertainment will publish a new "Kid Sherlock" comic-book mini-series this year: "John Watson is nervous being the only dog at his new school Baker Elementary. But when he takes an interest in fellow student Sherlock Holmes, the two become unlikely, and sometimes contentious, friends." You can see the cover artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/mx4sdhr>.
137. The Daily Mail had a nicely illustrated article on Mar. 28 about the Stepping Stones School's restoration of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, with before-and-after photographs <www.tinyurl.com/mmmrgj6v>; the school also has a colorful web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/k5sddp7>.

138. Michael W. McClure's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CRYPTIC CLUES: A GRAVE UNDERTAKING* (Chester: Baskerville Productions, 2016; 269 pp., \$32.99 in cloth or \$21.95 in paper covers) has a Foreword by the late John Bennett Shaw (who wrote it in 1994 when work on the book started), and a "tour of the resting places" of more than 300 characters in the Canon; Michael and John were cofounders of Stimson & Co. (a professional Sherlockian society for funeral directors). Images on many of the tombstones display McClure's portraits of members of The Baker Street Irregulars and The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes who have been Invested with the names of the characters, and are accompanied by irreverent (and punny) commentary by the author. Available at <www.baskervilleproductions.com>.
139. Further to the forecast of a manga edition of "Sherlock: A Study in Pink" (Mar 16 #3), the six-issue mini-series is now available as a graphic novel from Titan Comics (224 pp., \$12.99). Adapted from Steven Moffat's script, it has striking artwork by Jay.
140. Gary Lovisi's *SHERLOCK HOLMES & MR. MAC IN: THE AFFAIR OF LADY WESTCOTT'S LOST RUBY/THE CASE OF THE UNSEEN ASSASSIN* (Eureka: Black Gat Books, 2017; 163 pp., \$9.99) brings back Inspector Alec MacDonald (from "The Valley of Fear"), investigating two new mysteries (with the assistance of Holmes and Watson).
141. Jeff Falkingham's blog about "Doyle vs. Clemens: A New Perspective" tells the story of a "feud" between the two authors, and you can read his essay (and about his other Sherlockian activities) at <www.tinyurl.com/jym1quo>.
142. "Did you know that his [F. Scott Fitzgerald] first appearance in print was 'The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage,' a Holmes pastiche?" That's from Jim Huang's review (Mystery Scene #143, winter 2016) of Maureen Corrigan's *SO WE READ ON: HOW THE GREAT GATSBY CAME TO BE AND WHY IT ENDURES* (2014). The story was first published in the St. Paul Academy school magazine "Now and Then" in 1909, discovered by Fred Dannay, and reprinted in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Mar. 1960) and *ELLERY QUEEN'S 15TH MYSTERY ANNUAL* (1960); it's not a pastiche, and Sherlockian only in that someone makes some nice deductions.
143. Alexander Orlov has noted Alexander Sedov's report from Live Journal (Mar. 20) about new statues of Holmes and Watson (sculpted by Andrei Orlov) that are display in Yekaterinburg <www.tinyurl.com/mjv3rkl>; it's all in Russian (Google Translate helps), and there are lots of images of the statues.

144. Mar 17 #7 *THE DAUGHTER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Leonard Goldberg (New York: Minotaur, 2017; 305 pp., \$25.00) has Joanna Blalock (Sherlock Holmes' daughter) joining forces with Dr. John H. Watson, and his son Dr. John Watson Jr., in pursuit of a vicious killer (the son of one of the Canonical villains); the story offers mystery and danger, and some romance. The author's web-site's at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>. Note: Goldberg also has written nine books about a modern Joanna Blalock (the same name for the protagonist, but she's not Sherlockian).
145. "London's high society goes to Sherlock Holmes. The rest go to Arrowood" is the cover blurb for Mick Finlay's *ARROWOOD* (Don Mills: MIRA, 2017; 350 pp., \$15.99); Arrowood is an "emotional agent" rather than the "deductive agent" he calls Holmes, and Arrowood has some harsh things to say about how Holmes has (or hasn't) solved some of his cases in a story that offers interesting characters and an intriguing mystery. There's also a British edition from HQ (£12.99). And the British production company Cave Bear is planning to make a television series based on the book.
146. And, as usual, there's Sherlockian theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") is on at the Archway Theatre in Los Angeles through Apr. 30 <www.archwayla.com>. The Peninsula Players will stage a public reading of Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" at Björklunden in Bailey's Harbor, Wis., on Apr. 3; web-site at <www.peninsulaplayers.com>.
147. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Adventure" has been scheduled at the Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church Theater in Philadelphia, Apr. 21-May 7 <www.beacontheatreproductions.org>.
148. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Whippoorwill Hall Theatre in Armonk, N.Y., Apr. 28- May 13 <www.hudsonstage.com>.
149. The British Comedy Company will perform Peter Wear's parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the St. Michael and All Angels Church in Chiswick, London, on Apr. 30 <www.britishcomedycompany.co.uk>.
150. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., July 13-29; their web-site is at <www.dorsettheatrefestival.org>. And at the Heagney Theatre in Webster Groves, Mo., Oct. 12-29 <www.insighttheatrecompany.com>.
151. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) will be performed at the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre in Arrow Rock, Mo., Aug. 5-13 <www.lyceumtheatre.org>.
152. R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is due at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Va., Sept. 28-Nov. 11; their web-site's at <www.bartertheatre.com>.

153. Apr 17 #1 Benedict Cumberbatch is keeping busy: he will star in "The Child in Time" (now in production for BBC One and PBS), based on Ian McEwan's award-winning novel. So is Martin Freeman, who is filming in "Black Panther" (part of the Marvel comic-book franchise). Jonny Lee Miller is now in theaters in "T2 Trainspotting", Lucy Liu will appear in "Future World" (a science-fiction film now in post-production). Robert Downey Jr. is continuing as Tony Stark/Iron Man, and Jude Law is starring as Vortigern in "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" (due this year).
154. Brenda Rossini has reported that the Newberry Library in Chicago will hold a one-day seminar on "Sherlock Holmes and the Popular Imagination" on June 10 <www.newberry.org/S17Sherlock>.
155. And a correction: the Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will celebrate their 50th anniversary this year, at a meeting on June 25, during the ALA conference in Chicago. The Sub-Librarians are the oldest "professional" Sherlockian society, and they were founded by John Bennett Shaw. Marsha Pollak would welcome congratulatory messages from other societies <mlpollak@icloud.com>. If you'd like to attend the festivities, Marsha will be happy to provide details, by e-mail or postal mail (1318 Mildred Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125).
156. Asmodee <www.tinyurl.com/kso9hol> has announced for release this fall "The Thames Murders and Other Cases" (ten fully-revised cases for the table-top game "Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective"); there's a link to an interview with Space Cowboys about "The Evolution of Sherlock Holmes: Consulting Detective" (at upper right).
157. Tim Pigott-Smith died on Apr. 7. He began his acting career on stage with the Bristol Old Vic in 1969 and made his Broadway debut in 1974 as Dr. Watson in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes"; he went on to star on screen, radio, and television, playing Sherlock Holmes in "The Valley of Fear" for BBC Radio 4 (1986) and narrating the BBC-2 television documentary "The Case of Sherlock Holmes" (1987). Pigott-Smith also recorded Hesketh Pearson's *ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE* for Naxos AudioBooks (2001), read an abridgement of Conan Doyle's "The Case of Lady Sannox" in the BBC Radio 4 series "Beyond the Surgery" (2005), wrote three pastiches for Hodder Children's Books (2008-2009), played Inspector Lestrade in the BBC Radio 4 series "The Rivals" (2013), and was interviewed in "How to Be Sherlock Holmes" in the BBC Four series "Timeshift" (2014). He also was appointed OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to drama in the 2017 New Year's Honours List. A nice resumé indeed.

158. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where, and it offers an interesting look at how many society events are being held hither and yon. You should contact <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed. The calendar also is available on Twitter as @SianCalendar.

159. Apr 17 #2 E.J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES now has a second edition (New York: Fall River, 2016; 254 pp., \$7.98 at Barnes & Noble) with a new afterword; it's a fine demonstration of how the Canon can be used to make a technical subject interesting, and it will be just as interesting to Sherlockians: she offers stories of how science was and is used to solve crimes, and shows how forensics have expanded in scope since Sherlock Holmes' time. Her web-site is at <www.ejwagnercrimehistorian.com>.
160. A complete run of all of the Sherlock Holmes stories published in The Strand Magazine (58 stories in 79 issues) sold on Apr. 9 for \$18,812.50 (including the buyer's premium) at Heritage Auctions <www.ha.com>.
161. Terry Hunt reports in the latest issue of The Bowling Green (the newsletter of the Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State) that Christopher Morley will be inducted into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame on June 5, at the Hall of Fame Dinner at the Princeton Club in New York. If you want to subscribe to the newsletter, contact Terry at <18goldini95@gmail.com>.
162. Jack Ziegler died on Mar. 29. Once described as "the godfather of contemporary New Yorker cartoonists," he began his career in 1973 by selling an idea that was illustrated by Charles Addams, and had his own cartoon in the magazine on Feb. 11, 1974. He went on to contribute more than 1,600 cartoons to the New Yorker, including this one (on Jan. 11, 1988). You can read Bob Mankoff's tribute to Ziegler in the New Yorker at <www.tinyurl.com/mann25q> and Michael Cavanaugh's appreciation in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/n4cofcl>.
163. Melvin Regin (better known by his nickname "Wah Wah Watson") is a guitarist famous for his use of the wah-wah pedal (which provides special effects for the electric guitar). The album cover of his 1976 LP "Wah Wah Watson: Elementary" showed him with a deerstalker and calabash pipe, and he has a web-site at <www.wahwah.com>; Jennie Paton has found the album (with cover art and music) at YouTube <tinyurl.com/lo84x8u>.
164. Further to the review of Leonard Goldberg's THE DAUGHTER OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Mar 17 #7), the modern Joanna Blalock is intended (but not stated) to be the granddaughter of the Joanna Blalock who is Holmes' daughter.
165. Evy Herzog has kindly reported the monthly blog from the Victorian Trading Co. <www.tinyurl.com/kdk8ll8>, which this month is devoted to "Bad Boys of the Victorian Era" (one of them being Joseph Caminada). Angela Buckley's THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN STORY OF JEROME CAMINADA (May 14 #6) is the biography of a Manchester policeman who began his career as a police constable in 1868 and had risen to the rank of superintendent of the city's police force when he retired in 1899 and became a private detective.

166. Apr 17 #3 Lyndsay Faye's new collection THE WHOLE ART OF DETECTION: LOST MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Mysterious Press, 2017; 352 pp., \$25.00) offers fifteen pastiches, two of them new and the others reprinted from magazines and other sources, and they're nicely done indeed; she has done an excellent job of capturing the voices of Watson and Holmes, and in offering interesting characters and mysteries.
167. "The Lost City of Z" opened in theaters this month, starring Charlie Hunnam as Col. Percy H. Fawcett, who met Conan Doyle in 1910 and then disappeared in the Amazon jungle, but one is listed as Conan Doyle in the cast list at the Internet Movie Data Base, so it's unlikely that Conan Doyle appears in the film. Fawcett and Conan Doyle are discussed by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD (1996) and David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (2009); the film is based on Grann's book. Fawcett was British, so the Z is pronounced Zed by everyone. There's a trailer for the film at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/moosuhh>.
168. There are (at least) two sides to every story, of course: Hugh Thompson's article about "how to lose friends and make enemies in the jungle" in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/ml9cjhb> suggests that Fawcett was not at all the intrepid explorer described by Grann.
169. Ray Betzner has kindly reported a different Sherlockian rubber duckie, from Oriental Trading <www.tinyurl.com/mv3fgdr>; it is one of four "reading rubber duckies" (2" high), and is holding a book with the spine title "mystery"). It's available from various sources on the Internet, individually or in the set of four.
170. Buster Keaton's silent film "Sherlock Jr." (1924) is well known (although not actually Sherlockian); Howard Ostrom has now discovered Buster Keaton wearing a deerstalker in the non-Sherlockian film "Battling Butler" (1926), which nicely is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/kzk3j5a>; the scene begins at 4 minutes into the film.
171. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Birraporetti's in Houston on Apr. 5, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, welcomed by members of The John Openshaw Society. Our next meetings will be on Oct. 25 in Seattle, and on May 23, 2018, in Salt Lake City.
172. Some interesting Conan Doyle manuscript material is coming up at auction at Swann Auction Galleries on May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/m7a4cpv>; not Sherlockian (but two of the lots are from his tour of the United States in 1894). Randall stock has details on the 1894 material at <www.tinyurl.com/ky7wtas>.
173. Ted Friedman ("The Commonplace Book") died on Apr. 21. He was a university professor (teaching marketing at Long Island University) and a licenced investigator (at a management consulting firm), a stamp collector specializing in Sherlockian philately, and a stalwart member of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers and other society in an near New York. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1995.

174. Apr 17 #4 There's a new SHERLOCK, an inexpensive diagnostic tool for detecting nucleic acids from disease-causing microbes: SHERLOCK is an acronym, of course, for the Specific High Sensitivity Enzymatic Reporter UNLOCKing that has been developed from CRISPR (an acronym for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats), a laboratory tool used for editing genes. You'll find Joel Achenbach's article about the new SHERLOCK in the Washington Post (Apr. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/kdm7w6b>.
175. Richard A. Roth died on Mar. 17. He launched his career as a film producer with "Summer of '42" (1971), had a bit part in Gene Wilder's "Frankenstein" (1974), and then produced Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
176. Vicki Delany's ELEMENTARY, SHE READ (New York: Crooked Lane, 2017; 308 pp., \$25.99) is a pleasantly-cozy "Sherlock Holmes bookshop mystery" that stars Gemma Doyle (the proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (the proprietor of the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room) trying to investigate two murders and a mysterious copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887.
177. Kathryn Schulz has an interesting article ("Polar Expressed") on writings about polar exploration in the 19th century, with nice discussion of Conan Doyle's "The Captain of the Pole-Star" and the journal he kept while serving on the arctic whaler Hope <www.tinyurl.com/mx99me3>.

178. Howard Ostrom spotted an interesting set of optical-illusion puzzles created as part of an ad campaign for the Colsubsidio Book Exchange (with the tag line "Come with one story and leave with another"); you're challenged to find two literary references in each puzzle <www.tinyurl.com/lnwgovc>. One of them has a fairy-tale princess as one of the references.
179. Jennifer Petkus' *OUR MUTUAL FRIENDS: A CHARLOTTE HOUSE AFFAIR* (Denver: Mallard Classics, 2017; 353 pp., \$16.99) is sequel to her *MY PARTICULAR FRIEND* (Jul 15 #7); Charlotte House and her ward Jane Woodson are now involved in investigations in London. The tale is told in the style of Jane Austen and is set in that era, and yes: the names are echoes, and not the only echoes from the Canon <www.myparticularfriend.com>.
180. Mattias Boström's *FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK* (Aug 13 #4) has now been translated from Swedish into English as *FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK* (New York: Mysterious Press, 2017; 571 pp., \$27.00), and it's welcome indeed. The book's subtitle is "the story of the men and women who created an icon," and Mattias reports on his detailed research on Conan Doyle and his family, Sherlock Holmes, early and more recent Sherlockians, Sherlockian societies in various countries, pastiches, and stage, screen, radio, and television, and he's thoroughly up to date, with discussion of Sherlockiana on the Internet and the BBC's "Sherlock" and CBS's "Elementary" television series. His research included family papers that offer a new and interesting look at the battles over archives and copyright that were launched by Denis and Adrian are not yet over. Well-written and recommended. And there will be a British edition from Head of Zeus titled *THE LIFE AND DEATH OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: MASTER DETECTIVE, MYTH AND MOVIE STAR* (£25.00 hardcover/£8.99 paperback).

181. Apr 17 #5 Mercedes Lackey's *A STUDY IN SABLE* (New York: DAW Books, 2016; 313 pp., \$27.00) is the latest title in her otherwise-non-Sherlockian "The Elemental Masters" series; two young women, one a psychic and the other a medium, team up with John and Mary Watson, themselves elemental masters, to investigate weird and magical cases that are too occult for the more prosaic Sherlock Holmes.
182. Interweave, an on-line company, offers a pattern for a "Conan Doyle Vest" (a cable vest, accented by a wide collar, for this season's big-shoulder look) <www.tinyurl.com/lhuvgyb>. They don't say how this is related to Conan Doyle, however.
183. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has been adapted for the stage many times since 1902 (in Australia), and it is always interesting to see how people present the Hound for theater audiences. And if you can't see a play performed, you can at least enjoy the script: Claire Malcomson's dramatization was staged in Britain in 2013, and it has been published (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 80 pp., \$10.95) <www.mxpublishing.com> <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
184. Wildside Press, publisher of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine, edited by Marvin Kaye (now up to issue #22), also offers books, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, with many titles by Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/l3nbxy4>.
185. Randall Stock has reported an amusing blog post at the web-site of Unbiased <www.tinyurl.com/m5e272b> that notes that "every tax return tells a story" (with discussion of the various business-expense deductions that might be claimed by Captain Hook, Mary Poppins, and Sherlock Holmes); Holmes wears no official uniform, so he couldn't claim clothing expenses for his deerstalker, but he could claim the cost of what he wears when in disguise.
186. Don't Go Into the Cellar (a theatrical touring company that's based in the West Midlands) is taking bookings for its 2018 season. Their productions include "The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes" (first staged in 2011) <www.dontgointothecellar.com>. They've also done "The Supernatural Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (2012), "Ho Ho Holmes" (2012), and "Holmes Alone" (2013).
187. "How much would fictional houses cost in real life?" was the question, and CNN had some answers on Apr. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/n95uu8m>, including an estimate by the real estate advisor Savills that 221B Baker Street (where the Sherlock Holmes Museum is now) is worth \$5 million.
188. The manuscript of "The Missing Three-Quarter" is on its way to China, included in a cultural exchange program between the British Library (owner of the manuscript) and partner institutions in China. "Shakespeare to Sherlock: Treasures of the British Library" is a joint exhibition that opened this month at the National Library of China in Beijing. Information about the exhibition is available on-line in Mandarin <www.tinyurl.com/kgkr8p>; Google Translate will be a great help in seeing that they have to say about Conan Doyle, and there are links to articles that include Prof. Li Ou-fan's discussion of the translation and dissemination of Sherlock Holmes in China, especially in the late Qing Dynasty (early 20th century).

189. Apr 17 #6 The 2017 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle (it is their 34th annual issue), offering 54 pages of scholarship, quizzes, pastiches, artwork, and reports on the society and its members. The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (\$20.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles should be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.
190. St. James' Court (a Taj Hotel in London) has launched a series of "English Classics Revisited" that now includes a "bespoke limited-edition hardback" edition of Sherlock Holmes stories <www.tinyurl.com/n4nwl5j>; the hotel also offers a "Sherlock Holmes Afternoon Tea" (£35.00) with a Canonical menu.
191. And the usual theatrical alerts: "The Game Is Afoot" (a new play written by Kate Clabough) will be staged by the Blount Home Education Association Drama Club at the River Oaks Community Church in Maryville, Tenn., May 5 and 6 ("Sherlock Holmes meets Harry Houdini").
192. "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" will be performed at the Tudor House at Lake Arrowhead, Calif., June 9-17 <www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas>; this is Conan Doyle's script from 1910.
193. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed by the Walnut Street Theatre at Independence Studio on 3 in Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 2-Feb. 4, 2018 <www.walnutstreettheatre.org>, and then on tour; the schedule for the tour will be available this summer, but in the meantime includes Wilkes Barre PA (Feb. 7); Elmira NY (Feb. 8); Galloway NJ (Feb. 10); Manassas VA (Feb. 11); Grand Rapids MN (Feb. 14); Collegeville MN (Feb. 16-17); Hamilton, Bermuda (Feb. 20-21); Albuquerque NM (Feb. 23); Glendora CA (Feb. 23); Palm Desert CA (Feb. 27-28); Hampton VA (Mar. 2); Fairfax, VA (Mar. 3); and Frederick MD (Mar. 4). Ludwig's "Baskerville" is also scheduled (by local companies) at the Ocean State Theatre in Warwick, R.I., Mar. 28-Apr 15 <www.oceanstatetheatre.org> and the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., June 15-Aug. 5, 2018 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.
194. The East Lynne Theater Company will perform Craig Wichman's radio-style adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Nov. 3-4 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>; also on Mar. 16-17, 2018.
195. The Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn., will present "A Connecticut Christmas Carol" (a new musical with book by L. J. Fecho and music and lyrics by Michael O'Flaherty) Nov. 17 to Dec. 24. "Famed actor and local legend William Gillette leaves his castle on the Connecticut River to adapt Charles Dickens' holiday classic in the 1920s" (Mark Twain, Harriett Beecher Stowe, and P. T. Barnum support Gillette as Scrooge).
196. "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (by Eric Coble, based on the graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulton), will be performed at the Dobama Theatre in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Dec. 1-30 <www.dobama.org>.

197. May 17 #1 Big Brother is indeed watching you. Your mail not only is delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, but the sorting machines also scan and store images of the envelopes (so people can keep track of who's sending mail to you). You can also sign up for "informed delivery" (a daily e-mail message with images of the letter-size envelopes that will be delivered that day); you can check on-line to see if "informed delivery" service is available in your area.
198. Audible has released a recording of "Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band Retold for Children" (written by Mark Williams and narrated by Joseph Tweedale); 55 minutes, \$3.95 (or free with a 30-day trial membership); details at <www.tinyurl.com/lu8of5o>.
199. A long-range forecast: The Norwegian Explorers are planning to hold their next Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis on Aug. 9-11, 2019, and you can get on their mailing list by contacting Julie McKuras <mike9750@aol.com>.
200. The song "Let Yourself Fall" from the then-work-in-progress musical "Dust and Shadow" (based on Lyndsay Faye's book) was previewed at the Saturday-afternoon reception of The Baker Street Irregulars in Jan. 2011; the complete musical will have its first public performance at the Highline Ballroom in New York on July 17 <www.tinyurl.com/k8djuqb>. The novel (and the musical) have Holmes and Watson in pursuit of Jack the Ripper. And there's another Sherlockian connection: Jenny Ashman (who plays Mary Jane Kelly) is the daughter of the late Peter G. Ashman ("Peter Steiler, the Elder" in the BSI).
201. Jennie Paton has reported the country western song "Just Call Me Sherlock Holmes" with words and music by Richard Grossman (1987); it's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/mt2m4yf>.
202. It has been quite a while since DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES was published in 1976, but people still are interested in Canonical dining: the [London] Evening Standard's upcoming "Food Month" will include the Literary Hour's presentation of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes & the Scandalous Supper Club" at the Manor House in London on June 28-30 <www.tinyurl.com/lq92dxo>. According to the newspaper <www.tinyurl.com/mpjkmzy>, there will be drinks, a five-course dinner, and a mystery to solve.
203. Paul Herbert has noted Andrew M. Greeley's IRISH EYES: THE DARK BEGINNINGS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2000) at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/kjjop6e>, but the book seems to have no Sherlockian connection other than the subtitle (which is not given in other listings of the book). It's one of twelve novels about "Nuala Anne McGrail, that beautiful Irish spitfire," and the "Look inside" feature at Amazon turns up no mention of Sherlock Holmes in the text other than mention of a character who "looked like the last Basil Rathbone playing Sherlock Holmes in the old movies."
204. Jennie Paton reports that there's a "Sinister Image" series at Vimeo, with David Del Valle as host, and with his commentary on each film. There are two Rathbone films in the series (so far): "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943) and "Terror by Night" (1946) <www.tinyurl.com/lepdkw2>.

205. May 17 #2 Further to the report (Jan 17 #6) on plans to reopen the former Royal Oak pub in Ashburton, Newton Abbot, with a new theme, the pub is now open as The Hound of the Baskervilles, and thoroughly Sherlockian (including Baskervilles IPA from the Dartmoor Brewery on draft) (or on draught, as it's spelled on Dartmoor). There was a colorful report, complete with videos, at Devon Live (May 5) <www.tinyurl.com/kdet8rg>.
206. Bob Mankoff is retiring from The New Yorker after 20 years as cartoon editor and 20 more as a contributor, and there's a fine Washington Post article about him at <www.tinyurl.com/mqo7ppu>. The caption on his Sherlockian cartoon is "Elementary, my dear Watson, the cartoonist did it" (in the Saturday Review, Nov. 15, 1975). And his story about his own famous "How about never" caption is at <www.tinyurl.com/jlbaot9>.
207. Reported by Dana Richards: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: STUDIES IN THE BIBLICAL TEXT IN HONOUR OF ANNELI AEJMELEUS (CONTRIBUTIONS TO BIBLICAL EXEGESIS AND THEOLOGY), published by Peeters Bvba in 2014, with no mention of Sherlock Holmes other than in the title. Kristin De Troyer, one of the editors of the book, explained by e-mail that "text critics work with data and have to put all the data together in order to solve the text critical problem."
208. It's old news, but we're catching up now: there was a report from BBC News last year <www.tinyurl.com/jcqndw> on how researchers at University College London have taught a computer to imitate anyone's handwriting. They call their system "My Text in Your Handwriting" and they have tried it out on samples of handwritten text from historical figures that include Abraham Lincoln and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. If you'd like to see "Elementary, my dear Watson" in Conan Doyle's handwriting (produced by their computer) go to the UCL web-site <www.visual.cs.ucl.ac.uk/pubs/handwriting> (and don't neglect the video).
209. Further to the item about Stephen Fry's recording for Audible of SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION (Mar 17 #1), there's a six-minute video of Fry discussing Holmes at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/lv7scsz>. Note: the complete collection (71 hours and 58 minutes) is available only in Britain (and in the U.S. only if you have a program that allows you to pretend you are in Britain); the shorter version that's available in the U.S. has only the stories that are in the public domain in the U.S.
210. Simon Callow has a long (and enthusiastic review of THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION in the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/mzqnzyj>; Callow is a British director, writer, and actor, and he has played Holmes on radio, and Lestrade on television.
211. Ben Abramson presided over the Argus Book Shop, published the old series of The Baker Street Journal from 1946 to 1949, and of course was an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars. He was a good friend of Vincent Starrett, and there's a nice blog entry about Ben at Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" <www.tinyurl.com/lde82gl>.

212. May 17 #3 The Strand Magazine (the modern version edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to publish quarterly, and its on-line shop offers a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise, including notepads, colorful Hound of the Baskervilles socks, bookmarks, mousepads, lapel pins, and refrigerator magnets <www.strandmag.com/shop-new>. They have other literary offerings, including some imaginative Count of Monte Cristo socks.
213. Samantha Wolov spotted a story in the Japanese edition of Harper's Bazaar about Miu Miu's pop-60s-style pre-fall collection <www.tinyurl.com/khv8bsc>, inspired by Twiggy; there are eight images of models in fashionable deerstalkers, with a link to behind-the-scenes video.
214. Further to the long-ago report (Jun 83 #1) on The Baskerville Hounds, the band has a web-site <www.baskervillehounds.com>, with links to some of their music at YouTube.
215. The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis have an interesting event coming up on Aug. 26: "Nerve and Knowledge II" will take place in the operating theater in the Old Pathology Building at the Indiana Medical History Museum; it is the oldest intact pathology facility in the U.S. (it opened in 1896) and offers visitors a chance to see the sort of operating theater described in Conan Doyle's "His First Operation" (which is available on-line at Project Gutenberg as well as in ROUND THE RED LAMP and other collections). Contact Steve Doyle <sdoyle221@sbcglobal.net> for more information attendance is limited to 98, the seating capacity in the operating theater); there is a nice web-site for the Museum (with video) at <www.imhm.org>.
216. The title of the event in Indianapolis was inspired by NERVE AND KNOWLEDGE: DOCTORS, MEDICINE, AND THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON, published by The Baker Street Irregulars in 2015, and still available (\$39.95) at the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/nerve.html>.

217. Margaret H. Laing honored Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday by posting to the Chicago Tribune's "Chicago Now" blog the amusing "Tale of John Thomas" excerpted from DANGEROUS WORK: DIARY OF AN ARTIC ADVENTURE (2012). Here's a link to her blog <www.tinyurl.com/kb2vc9a>. For those of you who do not have access to the Internet, but do have the book, you'll find John Thomas in the entries for June 3-6 and June 10, 1880. Randall Stock has an excellent discussion of the diary and the book at <www.tinyurl.com/ycabhod8>. Reported: a new recording of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" starring Derek Jacobi as Holmes, due from Cadabra Records in July (\$29.00); there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/mk8jamq>. And there's an audio sample at <www.tinyurl.com/n53m99o>.
218. Paul Schullery's DIAMOND JUBILEE: SHERLOCK HOLMES, MARK TWAIN, AND THE PERIL OF THE EMPIRE (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2016; 246 pp., \$18.00) involves Holmes and Watson with Mark Twain, who is visiting London for the celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897, and all three men in thwarting a dire assassination plot. Schullery (a member of the Mark Twain Forum) does an excellent job of capturing Twain's voice and style, and has a web-site at <www.paulschullery.com>.
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219. May 17 #4 Sherlockian.Net was launched in 1994 by Chris Redmond, and has long been a valuable resource for the growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians (Jul 16 #5) (Dec 16 #5), and it is now owned and edited at the Center for Writing, Information, and Digital Experience, located at Michigan State University. One of its important features is the list of Sherlockian societies' web-sites; societies that aren't included, and would like to be, should contact Liza Potts <lpotts@msu.edu>.
220. One of the traditional features of Malice Domestic (the long-running conference for mystery writers and readers in the Washington area) is the hospitality room, where authors and publishers leave stacks of bookmarks and other publicity for their books. One of the cards available this year promoted the Skyler Foxe Mysteries, written by Haley Walsh <www.skylerfoxemysteries.com>. "This LGBT rom-com mystery series follows the teaching and unwitting sleuthing career of Skyler Foxe, high school teacher," but there isn't anything Sherlockian about the books (despite the imaginative publicity image).
221. Malice Domestic is an excellent opportunity to meet your favorite authors, and get them to sign their books for you, this year's "Sherlock Lives" panel featured John Gregory Betancourt, Dana Cameron, Carla Coupe, and Vicki Delaney, with Peter E. Blau as moderator. Next year's Malice will be held on Apr. 27-29 <www.malicedomestic.org>.
222. Good news for fans of "Elementary": the series has been renewed for a sixth season. According to Deadline Hollywood, the series has "soft" ratings in its slot (7.4 million viewers), but "Elementary" also is syndicated to WGN America, Hulu Plus, and other broadcast stations, for as much as \$3 million per episode; a year ago Les Moonves (CEO of CBS Corp. which owns the series) said that "Elementary" made about \$80 million profit for the corporation the preceding year. With 120 hours over five seasons, Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu already hold a record for any pair of actors as Holmes and Watson except for Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.
223. CBS has asked for only 13 new episodes of "Elementary" (rather than a full 24-episode season), and the new season will be a mid-season replacement for a new series that doesn't do as well as CBS hoped. The network surely will be paying attention to how many protests from "Elementary" fans there are when the series does not air in September, and what the ratings the series gets when it does air again.
224. And Lucy Liu will have a busy year, the Hollywood Reporter notes: she has signed on for a multiple-episode arc on the Hulu series "Difficult People" (as Veronica, "a morally corrupt, taste-challenged, and highly successful alpha female").
225. Further to the report about a manga edition of "Sherlock: A Study in Pink" from Titan Comics, the series will continue with "Sherlock: The Blind Banker" in October, and then "Sherlock: The Great Game" (all based on the BBC television series). And Insight Editions is publishing English versions of "The Baker Street Four" (a graphic novel written by Olivier Legrand and J. B. Dijan and published by Vents d'Ouest in France in 2009); the first volume is available now, and additional volumes are due in August and October.
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226. May 17 #5 More news from the Stepping Stones School, which has carefully restored Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home: the school has launched a year-long "Arthur Conan Doyle Lecture Series". Michael Gunton, senior archivist at the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth, gave the first lecture this month (on "Conan Doyle: The Hampshire/Surrey Connection"), and the series will finish next May with a weekend of events; more information about the series can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/mleq56y>.
227. There was a nice story about the school, and the series, in the Alton Herald (May 13) <www.tinyurl.com/mh3b6nd>, with a photograph of "pupils and volunteers at Undershaw" that includes (presumably a volunteer rather than a student) what appears to be Freddy the Pig. It isn't Freddy the Pig, actually, but rather Sherlock Hams. Haslemere is celebrating a Festival of Hogs, using local artists and schools to decorate fiberglass Hogs that will be displayed in the area and then sold at auction. The school is sponsoring Sherlock Hams, decorated by Alison Saunders <www.tinyurl.com/l3kt6ks>, and it's well worth clicking on this link to see Sherlock Hams.
228. "What To Do with Too Many Books (Is There Such a Thing?)" is the title of Chris Redmond's interesting contribution to the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere") blog <www.tinyurl.com/lwl7wgu>.
229. There aren't many bookshops left that specialize in the mystery genre, but The Sleuth of Baker Street is going strong in Toronto <www.sleuthofbakerstreet.ca>. J.D. Singh and Marian Mister are the proprietors, and their monthly newsletter "The Merchant of Menace" offers discussion of many of the Sherlockian and Doylean books published in Canada, the U.S., and the U.K., and available from their shop. And of course it's nice that their logo is Sherlockian.
230. The Rookies web-site has noted <www.tinyurl.com/k4w8rw4> that the Royal National Institute for the Blind is now planning a mini-exhibition display that will include a newly-commissioned bust of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. There are images and a brief video at the web-site. Dame Jean Conan Doyle bequeathed her copyrights to the Institute, and the Institute later sold them to the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd.
231. According to Laura Weston (the education and learning officer at the Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth), the mini-exhibition, prepared by the Collection to be transported by car to various locations, is intended to allow people who are blind or partially sighted to access the Collection, and to attract other audiences such as children or younger people, and people with disabilities. There will be audio about the Collection and the life of Conan Doyle, and two boxes of unique handling-objects that will include the bust and a 3D printed version of battle at the Reichenbach Falls that will be cold to the touch (thanks to a refrigeration unit), all designed to be as sensory as possible.
232. William Hjortsberg died on Apr. 22. He was an author of novels and screenplays, including Ridley Scott's cult film "Legend" (1985); his novel NEVERMORE (1994) was a mystery featuring Harry Houdini, Arthur Conan Doyle, and a serial killer who copies the murders described by Edgar Allan Poe.
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233. May 17 #6 Larry L. Elliott has created interesting artwork for a "Sherlock Holmes" jigsaw puzzle that's now available from Piecetime Puzzles <www.piectimepuzzles.com> (\$16.95); there also a "Sherlock Holmes Gift Tower" available from Thingamajigsaw <www.thingamajigsaw.com> and more expensive, because it has hand-cut wooden pieces, including special pieces tied to the Canon).
 234. Samantha Wolov notes a menu of Sherlockian loose-leaf teas at The Dartealling Lounge in San Francisco <www.dartealing.com/menu.html>; they also offer teas that are an homage to Downtown Abbey, as well as tea services and sandwiches.
 235. Further to the item (Sep 14 #7) on "The Great Ace Attorney" (an addition to the Japanese Nintendo 3DS series from Capcom), a new game set in the Meiji period, with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, in the cast of characters: you can watch a demo with English subtitles <www.tinyurl.com/kkpsk2c>. Nintendo has announced that "The Great Ace Attorney 2" will be released in Japan on Aug. 3 and there's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/nyczlvl>.
 236. Dr. Watson takes on the case of Sherlock Holmes' supposed death in Jeffrey Hatcher's new play "Holmes and Watson" (performed in Tucson and Phoenix in April and May, to good reviews). You can hear Hatcher talk about the play in an interview for Arizona's KJZZ-FM <www.tinyurl.com/lskuwry>.
 237. iClassics offers some colorful and interesting combinations of literature, art, and technology, and one of the stories they've done is "A Scandal in Bohemia" <www.iclassicscollection.com/en/project/idoyle>. It's available in four languages (English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese), and it's an impressive demonstration of how modern technology can make reading enjoyable for a generation that needs to be persuaded that reading can be fun. It's an on-line app (\$2.99) available at Amazon and other sites, and they have done others authors as well (Washington Irving, Charles Dickens, Edgar Allan Poe, H. P. Lovecraft, Oscar Wilde, and Edgar Allan Poe. The company also offers attractive stickers that can be used when sending messages using iOS 10 (click on Stickers in the iClassics drop-down menu), and Sherlock Holmes stickers are available.
 238. Cliff Goldfarb kindly reported that "lust-house" was featured on May 17 at the A.Word.A.Day web-site <www.tinyurl.com/k4zormc>, with credit to Conan Doyle. By nice coincidence, the "thought for today" was from Alan Kay, the spouse of Sherlockian author Bonnie MacBird.
 239. The web-site also honored Conan Doyle's birthday on May 22 with a "thought for today" that he once wrote: "I should dearly love that the world should be ever so little better for my presence. Even on this small stage we have our two sides, and something might be done by throwing all one's weight on the scale of breadth, tolerance, charity, temperance, peace, and kindness to man and beast. We can't all strike very big blows, and even the little ones count for something."
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240. May 17 #7 If you viewed "Elementary: Dead Man's Tale" on Mar. 26, you saw Nadia Alexander as Hope Nelligan. Nadia, a member of The Sound of the Baskervilles (the Sherlockian society in Seattle), was interviewed by James C. O'Leary for the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog; you can read the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/knd4u23>. Spoiler alert: if you've not watched the episode, you might want to wait for a repeat or the DVD before reading the interview.
 241. "Sherlock's 7 Cent Solution" is a new wooden puzzle designed by Diamond Jim Tyler (\$14.95) <www.tinyurl.com/l49u47k>. Tyler is a magician as well as a puzzle designer, and has some intriguing promo videos at his web-site [ABOUT DJT].
 242. Who knew? May 22 has been designated "International Sherlock Holmes Day" by someone posting to The Sherlock Forum in 2014, suggesting that people "celebrate by reading Sherlock Holmes books, watching Sherlock on TV, watching a Sherlock Holmes movie, dressing up in a costume, solving a mystery, etc." May 22 also is sometimes noted as "Sherlock Holmes Day" (and of course it's the birthday of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle).
 243. Laurie R. King offers a bit of news about the next Mary Russell novel, due next year: the working title is ISLAND OF THE MAD. The book is set in the spring of 1925, when Mary travels across Europe to Venice, and to Poveglia (an island asylum built on the bones of centuries of plague victims); one assumes that her husband is involved somehow. Laurie has a colorful web-site at <www.laurierking.com>, with lively blogs and much more.
 244. One of the interesting features of the long-running Mystery Scene magazine are the crossword puzzles in each issue. Verna Suit's "A Case of Identity" puzzle is nicely Sherlockian, and you can find it on-line at the magazine's web-site <www.mysteryscenemag.com/fun-games?id=5532>.
 245. The Bradford Telegraph & Argus has reported on events that will celebrate the centenary of the Cottingley Fairies hoax. There are exhibitions now at Cliffe Castle Museum in Keighley <www.tinyurl.com/mehysrz> and at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford <www.tinyurl.com/kntnw68>, and there will be a Cottingley Community Association Fun Day on July 8, and a Cottingley Fairy Festival on July 29, both taking place at the Cottingley Recreation Ground. The museum in Bradford owns the two cameras used by the young girls who took the photographs that fooled Conan Doyle.
 246. The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, maintained on-line by Alexis Barquin <www.arthur-conan-doyle.com>, is a fascinating and extensive resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle, and well worth exploring. There are images and transcripts, including the encyclopedia entry, noted by Alexander Orlov, for the thesis Conan Doyle wrote to earn his M.D. <www.tinyurl.com/l57xjd7>.
 247. A much younger-than-now Steve Doyle played Watson in the first act of "The Case of Black Peter" recorded at Indiana University in Apr. 1983; you can see him perform at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/kapng5s>. This was his second performance as Watson, the first being in high school, in a film "Sherlock Holmes vs. the Wolfman" (1976) (not yet available at YouTube).
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248. May 17 #8 "Jinsei ni Kiku! The World of Sherlock Holmes" ["Enriching Your Life: The World of Sherlock Holmes"] is a 90-minute interactive documentary scheduled for broadcast by NHK in Japan (and only in Japan) on July 8; the production company has recorded segments in the U.S. and Britain, and viewers will be able to answer quiz questions using their remotes (they'll also be able to see interviews with Sherlockians in the U.S., with voice-over in Japanese).
 249. Roger Moore died on May 23. The actor was best known for his roles as "The Saint" in the 1960s television series and then as the longest-running James Bond in six films in the 1970s and 1980s, he also played the title role in the NBC television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976). He received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2003.
 250. Howard Ostrom spotted an announcement by Spookhouse Productions of "Puppet Holmes" (described as "the Odd Couple meets Ernie and Bert in the world of Arthur Conan Doyle"); you can see an announcement trailer at their web-site <www.spookhouseproductions.weebly.com/puppet-holmes.html>, and if you click on the "short films" link you will find their earlier "221B: The Sherlock Holmes Web-Series" (2013).
 251. And the usual theatrical update: Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at the Coach House Theatre in Akron, Ohio, through June 4 <coachhousetheatre.com>.
 252. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at the English Theatre Frankfurt in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, through June 30 <www.english-theatre.de>. And it's scheduled at the Shubert Theatre in Center Valley, Pa., June 21-July 16 <www.pashakespeare.org>.

253. Jonathan Josephson's immersive-theater "Mystery Lit: Holmes, Sherlock, and the Consulting Detective" will be performed at the Santa Anita Train Depot on the grounds of the Los Angeles County Arboretum, from June 2 to July 1 <www.unboundproductions.org>.
254. The Baker Street Players and KVC Radio will present double bills of live radio theater of programs from the old "Sherlock Holmes" series at the Hein & Co. Bookstore in Jackson, Calif., on June 3-4, Aug. 4-5, and Aug. 17-18; more information at <www.bakerstreetwest.com>. The Players also will perform Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" Sept. 8-Oct. 7 (there's lots more about Baker Street West, noted at the web-site).
255. "The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is to be performed at the Liberty Lake Theatre in Liberty Lake, Wash., June 7-15 <www.libertylaketheatre.com>.
256. Jami-Leigh Bartschi's musical "My Dear Watson" will be performed at the Peter Jay Sharp Theater in New York, July 11-16 <www.nymf.org>. The web-site for the musical <www.mydearwatsonmusical.com> has the history of the musical, and an audio interview with Bartschi.

257. Jun 17 #1 The Baker Street Irregulars are holding a (July only) 50% discount sale on four titles: TO KEEP THE MEMORY GREEN (Aug 07 #4), "A REMARKABLE MIXTURE" (Jan 08 #3), THE GRAND GAME: VOLUME 2 (Feb 12 #1), and THE REMARKABLE CHAR ACTERS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Feb 14 #1). The books are a bargain, as well as "just the thing to fill that gap on that second shelf" (as someone once said); they're available only at the web-site www.bakerstreetjournal.com and only using PayPal or credit cards.
258. Sorry about that: the link for seeing "Elementary, my dear Watson" in Conan Doyle's handwriting (May 17 #3) is broken; <www.tinyurl.com/ycqttv5r> is a working URL.
259. "The cavemen in a lounge suit" is Gautham Shenoy's description of Professor George Edward Challenger in a nice tribute to Challenger on the Daily Factor blog <www.tinyurl.com/ycbr7zz2>, repeating Edward Malone's description of Challenger in "When the World Screamed". Challenger's much better known as the hero of "The Lost World" (in print and on film). The restored (and most complete) version of "The Lost World" (1925), released on DVD by Image Entertainment in 2012 <www.tinyurl.com/luphdmv>, will be available on Bluray from Flicker Alley on Sept. 12 with added features (\$29.95 if you preorder now, and \$39.95 after it's issued) <www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s>.
260. There are some nice clips from old British television shows uploaded by Jim Clark to YouTube: a segment from "The South Bank Show: The Underground of the Imagination" (1987) <www.tinyurl.com/y9zaaz7m>, interviews with Stanley MacKenzie [possibly from "Collectors' Lot"] <www.tinyurl.com/y9g9q62r> and Anthony Howlett at The Sherlock Holmes [possibly from "Something to Treasure"] <www.tinyurl.com/yb3es6t4>, and (in the interview clips) footage of The Sherlock Holmes Society's excursion to Switzerland in 1987. The interview clips are compilations, and the descriptions aren't correct.
261. Leonardo DiCaprio is planning to star in a film based on Erik Larson's THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY (2003), playing America's first serial killer Herman Webster Mudgett, who built and ran the World's Fair Hotel in which many of his victims died. Mudgett used the alias H. H. Holmes in Chicago, and while some have suggested that he was inspired by Sherlock Holmes, Mudgett first registered as Holmes in July 1886. Martin Scorsese is scheduled to direct the film, which does not yet have a script.
262. There is, however, a real Sherlockian connection for H. H. Holmes: it was one of the pseudonyms used by author and critic Anthony Boucher, who wrote THE CASE OF THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS (1940) and was an early member of the BSI.
263. Beau Riffenburgh's PINKERTON'S GREATEST DETECTIVE (New York: Penguin, 2014; 384 pp., \$18.00) is the newest biography of James McParland, the inspiration for Birdy Edwards (in "The Valley of Fear"); Ben Macintyre, reviewing the book in the N.Y. Times, called it "the fullest and fairest biography to date," and he was accurate indeed. The Penguin edition is the trade paperback, and (an interesting trend in publishing now) the notes and references and other material have been omitted, but are available at a web-site.

264. Jun 17 #2 Elizabeth Eulberg's THE GREAT SHELBY HOLMES (New York: Bloomsbury, 2016; 243 pp., \$16.99) is written for young readers and has a delightful opening: eleven-year-old John Watson has just moved into his new home in Harlem, and begins the book by complaining that his whole life has been boring. "Then we moved from Maryland to New York City, and my new neighbor tried to blow up the building." His neighbor, of course, is nine years old, and nicely Sherlockian, and the story's told well. The author's web-site is at <www.elizabetheulberg.com>.
265. "What is huge and furry, has vicious fangs, big ears and a long tail, and sings 'My Way'?" Roger Johnson asked in The District Messenger (many years ago).
266. Radio Times has announced that the BBC's video-on-demand store will close on Nov. 1, only 18 months after it was launched <www.tinyurl.com/ycsjjhq2>. The BBC was unable to compete with other steaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime, but the BBC and ITV have not closed their own streaming service BritBox, available in the U.S. but not in Britain. At the moment, BritBox offers four seasons of the Granada series, "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (with Rupert Everett as Holmes), and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Tom Baker as Holmes).
267. The Red Circle of Washington keeps an eye out for political Sherlockian (and Sherlockian politicians): Asher Schwartz's editorial cartoon "Sherlock Trump and the Missing Peace" was published by the Jewish Press on May 22.
268. Steven Spielberg has many Sherlockian and Doylean connections: he was executive producer of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) and director of "Jurassic Park" (1993) and "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" (1997). He also was executive producer and head writer for the animated television series "Animaniacs" that in 1995 included a segment "Deduces Wild" (1995) that's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ybtzhejj>.
269. Julie McKuras has reported Graphic 45, a company that specializes in scrapbook and paper crafting; their products include a "Master Detective" collection <www.tinyurl.com/ycrj2xdm> that's attractive, colorful, and nicely Sherlockian.
270. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is now at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Australia, through Oct. 8, and the museum is offering a long list of imaginative events and programs <www.tinyurl.com/yb8wcaca>. Roy Barraclough died on June 1. He began his acting career in 1962 in provincial pantomime in Britain, became a fixture at the Rovers Return (in the British television series "Coronation Street"), and played Dr. Watson (with Robert Powell as Holmes) in a 1993 touring production of Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical".
271. Watson's Tin Box sponsors an annual Sherlock Holmes Essay Contest for 7th Graders, and in 2014 the winner of the first prize was Hanna Al-Kowski, who went on to make an impressive 14-minute video for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. "A Study in Sherlock" is available at <www.tinyurl.com/y7mmbuw3>.

272. Jun 17 #3 A note about TinyURL, which was launched in January 2002 and is credited as the first notable URL-shortening service: I started using TinyURL in 2008, when the service used six-character extensions. The service eventually graduated to seven-character extensions and has just begun

- using eight-character extensions. Mathematicians are welcome to calculate how many times the TinyURL will be used before the service needs to go to nine-character extensions (they don't use "one" or "zero").
273. "What is huge and furry, has vicious fangs, big ears and a long tail, and sings 'My Way'?" "The giant rat of Sinatra." The Smithsonian Institution has issued an exclusive CD "Frank Sinatra: Lost & Found: The Radio Years" (\$14.99) with 26 live radio performances (including 24 that have never been released commercially, and 14 songs not available on any other CD). It's not Sherlockian (as far as I know), but Basil Rathbone is reported to have appeared in Sherlockian costume on "The Frank Sinatra Show" on CBS-TV (May 24, 1951), helping Sinatra find his missing bow tie.
274. Our new commemorative honors the bicentenary of the birth of Henry David Thoreau, who is quoted by Sherlock Holmes (in "The Noble Bachelor"). Thoreau wrote in his JOURNAL (on Nov. 11, 1854) "Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk," but it is of interest that his JOURNAL was not published until 1906, many years after the case took place, which raises a question of how Holmes could have read about the trout in the milk. The question is answered in an article "In Memoriam: Henry David Thoreau" (published in the Sept. 1969 issue of The Baker Street Journal, and illustrated with a reproduction of the commemorative issued by the U.S. in 1967).
275. "1920s Pac Heights Condo with Views of Lafayette Park Asks \$3.9 Million" is the headline on a story at Curbed San Francisco www.tinyurl.com/ybmvgdgg about a top floor condo at 2151 Sacramento Street. "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Once Hung Out Here" is the sub-head, and he did indeed visit the house, in June 1923, to meet Dr. Albert Abrams, who had invented a "radio heterodyne" that he used to detect cancer, syphilis, and other diseases. Conan Doyle was greatly impressed and discussed his visit to San Francisco, and Abrams, in OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE (1924). The entire house was purchased in 1986 for close to \$1 million, and one of the four condos was available for \$2.5 million in 2012. The top-floor condo, is advertised at \$3,995,000 and has 2,528 square feet (that's \$1,580 per square foot), which will give you an idea of how expensive real estate in San Francisco is.
276. Austin Mitchelson died in February. He was a journalist, and with Nicholas Utechin co-authored two pastiches (THE EARTHQUAKE MACHINE and HELLBIRDS) in 1976; he also wrote THE BAKER STREET IRREGULAR: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1994) and the graphic novel HOLMES AND HUDSON (2016).
277. Randall Stock has updated his report on the Swann Galleries sale of Conan Doyle manuscript material on May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/ky7wtas>; three drafts of the lecture that he gave on his tour of the United States in 1894 sold for \$10,625 (including the buyer's premium). All of the material was from the collection of the late Milton R. Slater, who also owned manuscripts for three of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories, sold at Swann in 2015.
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278. Jun 17 #4 Raymond Smullyan died on Feb. 6. He was a magician, a mathematician, and a world-famous creator of puzzles; he had a grand sense of humor (he once said "Why should I worry about dying? It's not going to happen in my lifetime!"), and THE CHESS MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1979) was one of his many books. The Guardian's obit included his puzzle "The Mystery of Portia's Caskets" <www.tinyurl.com/z4lsrnu> (there's a link to the answer, which some if not many will find useful).
279. Daedalus Books <www.daedalusbooks.com> is an excellent on-line resource for remaindered books and DVDs offered at deep discounts: searches for [conan doyle] and [sherlock holmes] will turn up many bargains.
280. Tina Rhea kindly reported a post by Chris Foster to The Veterans Site blog <www.tinyurl.com/y6vsv3j9> with a headline that read "No One Knew Why Cows Were Vanishing from This Ranch in the '20s Until Ranchers Found This!" The ranch was in Elko, Nev., where rustler J. R. "Crazy Tex" Hazelwood made himself an interesting pair of shoes (perhaps after reading "The Priory School").
281. Purina's Mmmysteries Presents the Case of the Bargain Bandit is a new advertising campaign <www.tinyurl.com/yb7yq7lm> that features an image of a deerstalkered hound named Detective Wigglesby.
282. Two copies of a "color print of Arthur Conan Doyle being haunted by Sherlock Holmes produced by Gahan Wilson" were included in a group of portfolios and prints <www.tinyurl.com/y75pcydw> offered at Heritage Auctions on June 6. The person actually being haunted by Holmes might be amused, one suspects, by the confusion.
283. Susan Diamond reports that Mike Shenk's "Acrostic" in the Wall Street Journal (June 3) is nicely Sherlockian, and it may still be available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/yd96ofws>.
284. Thornwillow Press is running a Kickstarter campaign for their new "Sherlock Holmes Hexalogy" <www.tinyurl.com/yct49rxe>: six letter-press printed and hand-bound volumes, each with one of Conan Doyle's favorite Sherlock Holmes stories, each in different bindings and at different prices; a fancy copy themed for "The Speckled Band" comes bound in genuine python skin and black Morocco leather), and each volume has the introduction written by Randall Stock for the Hexalogy.
285. Thornwillow also offers (available now) an attractive broadside leaflet AN EMBELLISHMENT OF LIFE: THOUGHTS ON ROSES (\$5.00) with quotations from eight authors (including Conan Doyle) <www.tinyurl.com/ychtz2po>.
286. The Craven Herald & Pioneer reported <www.tinyurl.com/y9zk7jj3> on plans to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' connections to the Yorkshire Dales. Martin Sutton, who runs Uncle Jeremy's Household, a gift shop in Ingleton, believes that the detective's name was inspired by Conan Doyle's visits to the area (he married his first wife Louise Hawkins there in 1885, the same year his short story "Uncle Jeremy's Household" was published). Sutton's gift shop has a Facebook page <www.facebook.com/unclejeremys>.
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287. Jun 17 #5 "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and His Campaign to Save the Lives of British Tommies" is an exhibition open through Aug. 31 at the Bankfield Museum in Halifax, West Yorks. His letter in The Times (July 27, 1915) suggested that better helmets and armor would reduce the casualties caused by shrapnel, rifle, and machine gun fire. Philip Abbot wrote an interesting four-part blog on the campaign for the Royal Armouries, available at <www.tinyurl.com/y9wrca7u>.
288. Since it's certain that newcomers may well not know what he looked like, it was Isaac Asimov, not Arthur Conan Doyle who was haunted by Sherlock Holmes in Gahan Wilson's print (Jun 17 #4). The artwork also was used on the dust jacket and as the frontispiece for ASIMOV'S SHERLOCKIAN LIMERICKS (1978).
289. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES TAROT, by John Matthews and Wil Kingham (London: Connections Book Publishing, 2014) described earlier (Aug 15 #2) is now out-of-print but available on the Internet; Matthews is a modern-day shaman and Kingham is a shamanic artist, and they have produced a 160-page illustrated guidebook and 79 attractive Sherlockian cards.
290. "If there were no Books there would be no Hound of the Baskervilles" is the title of an attractive letterpress broadside illustrated by Alan James Robinson for the Cheloniidae Press, offered by Wonder Book <www.tinyurl.com/yda7d5rk> for \$95.00; they also offer the same image on a T-shirt (\$15.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y7nuodge>.

291. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; it's now in its fifth year, and the current issue (with 85 colorful pages) is available at <www.tinyurl.com/yat9h3ed>. David Marcum's "Automobiles in Sherlock Holmes" offers nicely-illustrated original research; note also the imaginative paper jewelry available from Patralankaar.
292. Many years ago (Jun 79 #1) I noted that Peter Cook and Dudley Moore are reported to have played Holmes and Watson about ten years earlier in a five-minute sketch in "Not Only... But Also", asking for more information. The BBC television series aired from 1965 to 1970, and here's another request for more information.
293. "Calls within the network won't steal a minute on the entire tariff range," according to an advertisement in Yekaterinburg <www.tinyurl.com/yb2httof>, noted by Alexander Sedov and reported by Alexander Orlov. The next building to the right, Alexander adds, is where the latest statues of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are located (Mar 17 #6) <www.tinyurl.com/mjv3rkl>.
294. "Homespun from Ireland" (an LP issued by Marble Arch Records in 1966) featured Michael O'Duffy with the Bill Shepherd Orchestra and Chorus, and it is of interest to Sherlockians because one of the tracks has O'Duffy singing the traditional Irish song "Mush, Mush"; you can hear the track at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y82lcgkg>. The song is of interest to Sherlockians because the late James Montgomery decided that the lyrics of "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" were better suited to the music of "Mush Mush" than to the original music written by Bud Willis and his wife.

295. Jun 17 #6 Samuel V. Wilson died on June 10. He was a retired Army lieutenant general who served in the Office of Special Services and the Central Intelligence Agency, and then as director of the Defense Intelligence Agency; the Washington Post obituary <www.tinyurl.com/y8xtclxp> for him noted that he once said: "Intelligence's real hero is Sherlock Holmes, not James Bond." The obit's well worth reading if you like to travel (see his detailed description of what he did roaming the five continents and the seven seas).
296. For the completists: THE GLEN MICHAEL CAVALCADE ANNUAL [1974] has Sherlock Haggis on the cover, and includes a four-page comic strip "Sherlock Haggis and Dr. Neeps"; Michael was the presenter of a television series that ran for 26 years on Scotland's STV.
297. The Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce film "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943) is one of the best in Universal's series, and not just for those who live in Washington. The film is readily available at YouTube, in English and dubbed into Italian, Spanish and German. This poster for the film will be offered at Heritage Auctions on July 29, estimated at \$1,500-\$3,000; Its attractive graphics are quite different from the much more common version and the auction house explains that it's one of only two copies known to exist.
298. It has taken almost two years to decide (Oct 15 #2), but Westminster City Council has given final approval to convert Baker Street to two-way traffic (taking it back, Catherine Cooke notes, to the way it was in Sherlock Holmes' day). Details at <www.bakerstreetwow.co.uk>.
299. Richard Hughes, founder of The Baritsu Chapter of the BSI (the first Sherlockian society in Japan) had a fascinating and colorful life and career, as noted recently in the Japan Times <www.tinyurl.com/y9zthrz9>. He liked to say he had been a spy during the Cold War (for both sides), and his memoirs FOREIGN DEVIL (1972) and Norman Macswan's biography THE MAN WHO READ THE EAST WIND (1982) are well worth reading.
300. The Sherlocks. a British indie/rock band from Sheffield that plays on tour, have a web-site <www.thesherlocksmusic.co.uk> with links to their singles and to a video, and the BBC has a nice web-page <www.tinyurl.com/yd5ko2p6>; their first album ("Live for the Moment") will be issued on Aug. 18.
301. "The Radio Detectives" (an interesting five-part 30-minute series broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in 1998) is now available as a repeat by BBC Radio 4 Extra <www.tinyurl.com/yc4jlf3l>. The second episode is "The Voice of Sherlock Holmes" (and the other episodes are devoted to The Shadow, The Saint, Paul Temple, and Sexton Blake).
302. Dana Richards has found Doyle's Delight (or rather that there is a such a place): according to Wikipedia, it is the highest peak in Belize, and was named by Sharon Matola in 1989 in honor of "The Lost World" ("there must be something wild and wonderful in a country such as this, and we're the men to find it out"). Belize, for those who learned geography when I did, long ago, is the new name for British Honduras, in Central America.

303. Jun 17 #7 THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: PART VI--2017 ANNUAL (London: MX Publishing, 2017; 671 pp., \$48.95) is the latest in the series edited by David Marcum, and an excellent companion to earlier volumes, with almost three dozen traditional pastiches, a poetic tribute, and a radio script; the authors, old hands and new, ably show how nice it can be to have new and well-written short stories. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
304. Also from MX: Kieren McMullen's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY OF THE BOER WAGON (2012; 225 pp., \$16.95) has Holmes, Watson, and Conan Doyle in South Africa during the Boer War; Watson and Conan Doyle are at work in the Langman Field Hospital, Holmes is in disguise investigating a spy ring on behalf of Mycroft (assisted by Watson and Conan Doyle, of course), and Winston Churchill is on hand as a war correspondent.
305. Brenda Rossini's GRACELAND CEMETERY IN CHICAGO: A SHERLOCKIAN WALK MIDST THE TOMBSTONES (2017; 54 pp., \$8.95) provides visitors with a guided tour of the graves of Vincent Starrett and many others (accompanied by notes on their sometimes-tenuous Sherlockians connections), plus "The Story of Gina" (a lady who had a colorful life, and a thoroughly outré demise).
306. And: Viktor Messick's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A HOLE IN THE DEVIL'S TALE (2016; 130 pp., \$9.95) has Holmes and Watson in London in the 1890s, investigating a series of murders committed by the Tarot Master. Petr Macek's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND HITLER'S MESSENGER OF DEATH (2017; 258 pp., \$16.95) begins with Holmes and Watson preventing an assassination of Queen Victoria, and ends with a battle against German espionage that brings them to the U.S. on the airship Hindenberg. John Raffensperger and Richard Krevolin's THE DIARY OF YOUNG ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: ADVENTURES IN THE WILD WEST, 1878 (2017; 221 pp., \$16.95) is set in 1878, when Dr. Joseph Bell brings his young medical assistant to Chicago to help solve a case that involves a series of murders and an attempt to assassinate President Rutherford B. Hayes.
307. And: James Moffett's THE TRIALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2017; 228 pp., \$14.95) offers eight connected cases that culminate in a confrontation with a villain who nurses a long-standing grievance against Holmes. Michael Druce's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE PORTAL OF TIME (2017; 210 pp., \$14.95) has Holmes and Watson involved with H.G. Wells and his wife, and Albert Einstein, involved in a wormhole time-travel battle against Moriarty in 1918 and 1939.
308. John A. Little's THE FINAL TALES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (VOLUME FOUR): THE CASE OF THE KEW GARDENS GNOMES (2017, 156 pp., \$11.95) brings his series about Holmes and Watson in their 70s to a close, offering five stories that end with Watson deceased, and Holmes again in retirement on the Sussex Downs.
309. And: Thomas Kent Miller's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD (2017; 102 pp., \$9.99) is a reprint from 1991; Leo Vincey (whom some will recall from Rider Haggard's SHE and AYESHA) in Lhasa in 1891, when he and Horace Holly encounter a Norwegian named Sigerson. Richard T. Ryan's THE STONE OF DESTINY (2017; 253 pp., \$24.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of the Coronation Stone, stolen from Westminster Abbey by Irish nationalists after the death of Queen Victoria; the stone is recovered, as would be expected, and King Edward is duly crowned. Allan Mitchell's

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LEY LINE MURDERS (2017; 331 pp., \$16.95) challenges Holmes and Watson with gruesome murders near Stonehenge, and the mysterious "ancient ways".

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310. Jun 17 #8 Michael Conan the grand-uncle and godfather, and namesake, or Arthur Conan Doyle. Conan was a journalist and art critic in Paris, where young Arthur visited and met him (and wrote about the meeting in MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES (1923). There is much more about Conan at The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/ydhkgos9>, which is maintained and edited by Alexis Barquin; it's a detailed and delightful source for information about Sir Arthur.
311. The Portsmouth City Council and Winchester University Press have published a facsimile edition of the manuscript of "The Creeping Man" (with an introduction and annotated transcription by Neil McCaw, who is professor of Victorian literature and culture at the University); £35.00 (postpaid) to the U.K. and £50.00 elsewhere <www.tinyurl.com/yd44skqx>.
312. Further to the item about Steve Doyle playing Watson in 1983 (May 17 #7), Jennie Paton has noted that you can see an even-younger Steve as Watson in his high-school film "Sherlock Holmes vs. the Wolfman" (1976) at YouTube: <www.tinyurl.com/ydgasdpm>.
313. Peter Sallis died on June 2. He had a long career as an actor, and for 37 years he played Norman Clegg on the BBC television series "Last of the Summer Wine". He also voiced Wallace in the "Wallace and Gromit" films, and played Dr. Watson in the original production of the musical "Baker Street" (1964) and Jonas Oldacre in the BBC Radio 4 "The Norwood Builder" (1993). You can hear Sallis sing "A Married Man" from "Baker Street" at Scott Monty's tribute at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/yd589wo4>.
314. And there's theater: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Bridges Covenant Church in Tavares, Fla., July 1-16 <www.tavarestheater.org>.
315. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is scheduled at the Village Meadows Baptist Church in Sierra Vista, Ariz., July 20-23 <www.tinyurl.com/ydujdygw>. Also at Sanborn-Skyline County Park in Saratoga, Calif., Aug. 4-Sept. 3 <www.svshakespeare.org>.
316. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Ruth Caplin Theatre at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., July 22-29 <www.tinyurl.com/y6vraozb>; and at the CAT Theatre in Richmond, Va., Sept. 1-16 <www.catttheatre.com>; and at the Wade James Theater in Edmonds, Wash., Sept. 8-24 <www.tinyurl.com/y7yfqzqn5>.
317. R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is scheduled at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, May 12-June 10, 2018; web-site at <www.vertigotheatre.com>.
318. The next best thing to seeing theatrical entertainment on stage is to read scripts; many scripts have been published and are in print, and there's an on-line clearing house where you can find many of them listed and available for purchase: just search for [sherlock holmes] at <www.stageplays.com>.

Jul 17 #1

319. Mattias Boström's FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK (Aug 13 #4) has now been translated from Swedish into English as FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (New York: Mysterious Press, 2017; 597 pp., \$28.00); it was reviewed here at length (Apr 17 #4) and it's grand to see it formally in print. Subtitled "the story of the men and women who created an icon," it's well-written and heartily recommended.
320. THE ADVENTURES OF TWO BRITISH GENTLEMEN IN SWITZERLAND/DIE ABENTEUER ZWEIER BRITISCHER GENTLEMEN IN DER SCHWEIZ is a delightful book, edited by Nicole Glücklich and published by the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft (248 pp. in English and 270 pp. in German), presenting a colorfully-illustrated account of Conan Doyle's four visits to Switzerland, and Holmes' one visit, plus detailed discussion of Holmes' presence there today, on the ground, in pastiches, and in films and on television. Available in Germany from Amazon <www.amazon.de> (€29.00) and in the United States from the Mysterious Bookshop <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> (\$49.95). Recommended.
321. Conan Doyle was deceived by photographs of the Cottingley Fairies, and you can now have your very own, to decorate your garden (or home): Jennie Paton reports that the Victorian Trading Company is offering a colorful pair of them (in metal) for \$24.95 <www.tinyurl.com/y7seh9h3>; there is a blog at the web-site with a display of the five photographs taken by Frances Griffiths and Elsie Wright.
322. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the fairy photographs taken by the two girls, and an article in the Daily Telegraph www.tinyurl.com/y72nf952 attempts to answer the question "Why Do So Many People Still Believe in the Cottingley Fairies?"
323. And the journal Cognitive Research: Principles and Implications published an article this month <www.tinyurl.com/y8meurpn> on a study that investigated whether people can identify original and manipulated photos of real scenes. You can test yourself on five photographs at the Washington Post's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yccj7vvj>, where you're asked an up-to-date question: "Can You Tell Fake News When You See It?"
324. Steve McGarry's "KidTown" is a Sunday comic strip aimed at children, and it was Sherlockian on July 1 <www.gocomics.com/kidtown/2017/07/01>. There are similar comic strips, including "Slylock Fox" (now drawn by Bob Weber Sr. and Jr.) www.comicskingdom.com/slylock-fox-and-comics-for-kids/2017-07/01 in which Slylock always appears in Sherlockian costume.
325. "I shall be the Hans Sloane of my age," Nathan Garrideb said (in "The Three Garridebs"), and you can now read a biography of Sloane: James Delbourgo's COLLECTING THE WORLD: THE LIFE AND CURIOSITY OF HANS SLOANE (London: Allen Lane, 2017; 544 pp., £25.00); the American edition is COLLECTING THE WORLD: HANS SLOANE AND THE ORIGINS OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM (from Belknap Press) and you can hear Delbourgo talk about his book in an interesting History Extra podcast available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y966eu5p>, and read a review of the book in The Economist at Greg Ruby's The Fourth Garrideb's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yb2428jh>.

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326. Jul 17 #2 Greg Darak reports TAKING DETECTIVE STORIES SERIOUSLY: THE COLLECTED CRIME REVIEWS OF DOROTHY L. SAYERS (Perth: Tippermuir, 2017; 321 pp., £15.00); it is edited by Martin Edwards, who has assembled all of the book reviews that she wrote for The Sunday Times in the 1930s, including her perceptive review (Feb. 6, 1949) of John Dickson Carr's THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.
327. "What the deuce is it to me?" said Sherlock Holmes impatiently (in "A Study in Scarlet"). "You say that we go round the sun. If we went round the moon it would not make a pennyworth of difference to me or to my work." It will make a difference to people who will have a chance to view a rare total eclipse of the sun on Aug. 21 (you'll need to be in a narrow band that crosses the U.S. diagonally from Salem, Oreg., to Charleston, S. Car.), and the Postal Service has honored the event using special heat-activated technology to create stamps printed with thermochromic ink: you can press on the black circle of the stamp with your finger, and an image of the full moon will be revealed.
328. The Postal Service is becoming more and more creative: they've also issued a sheet of eight tactile "Have a Ball" stamps <www.tinyurl.com/ybejrhcr>: each of the eight balls has a distinctive feel, and they showcase football, volleyball, soccer, golf, baseball, basketball, tennis, and kickball. Note that four of them are Sherlockian or Doylean.
329. "Shisha no teikoku" ["The Empire of Corpses"] was a Japanese animation (Mar 16 #5); John Watson, recruited by the British government for a covert mission in Afghanistan, poses as a newly recruited medic for the British army and learns that humans are being brought back from the dead in the

- form of Frankenstein's monster. But the film's also Sherlockian: there's a cameo appearance by Holmes, with Watson, in the midst of the closing credits.
330. Howard Ostrom reports that people who make their own soap can make a "Sherlock Holmes-Inspired Masterpiece" ("221 Baker Street" soap) following instructions provided by Kate Carson (Royalty Soaps) and Bee (Sorcery Soap): there's a 20-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8b9vzms>.
331. "Smoking Gun or Distraction" was the headline on an article by Marc Fisher and David Nakamura in the Washington Post (July 13) about whether Donald J. Trump Jr.'s e-mails are important or not (which depends on how people feel about the issue <www.tinyurl.com/y8ms45bh>; the article notes the origin of the "smoking gun" phrase in "The Gloria Scott" (quoting the YALE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS), and Ben Panko digs deeper in a post at the Smithsonian Institution blog <www.tinyurl.com/y9lc4wju>. noting William Safire's comments on the phrase in his "On Language" column in the N.Y. Times Magazine in 2003.
332. Mo Lebowitz ("Arthur H. Staunton, the Forger") died on June 25. He had a long career as an art director, and he was highly regarded as a graphic designer, as the proprietor of the Antique Press, and as a bluegrass mandolinist. The Antique Press, located in the basement of his home, used handset letter press type and other old equipment to produce attractive booklets and broadsides, including some striking Sherlockiana. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1970.
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333. Jul 17 #3 The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and the summer issue includes Donny Zaldin's interesting essay about "The Cubitt Family Autograph Album as a Source of the Cipher in 'The Dancing Men'"; published quarterly, the Muse costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230), and a copy of the summer issue costs \$5.00 postpaid.
334. One sees Sherlock everywhere, but seldom as cute as in an Italian television commercial <www.tinyurl.com/y8ny6ps4> advertising Amadori's new Würstel 100%, kindly reported by Howard Ostrom.
335. The Wistow Maize Maze is an annual event in Leicestershire, and this year it celebrates the 130th anniversary of the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes story; it's open through Sept. 17, and you'll find details at <www.wistow.com/wistow-maze>.
336. The BBC had a story about the "A-maze-ing Sherlock Puzzle" accompanied by a short video <www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/40574499>. One assumes that the maize will be harvested in September, and possibly sold, creating an imaginative agricultural Sherlockian souvenir; the maze, alas, is planted in maize (for animal feed) rather than in sweet corn.
337. Canadian Holmes, published quarterly by The Bootmakers of Toronto, always is interesting; the winter 2016 issue included Hartley R. Nathan's "Mortimer's Penang Lawyer 1884" (an imaginative investigation Mortimer as well as of his walking-stick), and the spring 2017 issue offers John Linsenmeyer's "The Island of Uffa" (presenting a new candidate for the island mentioned in passing in "The Five Orange Pips"). There is much more to be found in the 40-page issues, which cost CA\$12.00 postpaid, and you can subscribe for a year for \$30.00 (US or CA), by mail to the Bootmakers at 3304-2045 Lakeshore Boulevard West, Etobicoke, ON MV8 2Z6, Canada, or at their web-site <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
338. The summer 2017 issue of Canadian Holmes also is of interest: there always is something new to be said about the Canon, and Sonia Fetherston has done just that, in her "Canonical Canoodling: Kisses from the Pages of Sherlock Holmes"; Thelma Beam also discusses letters Conan Doyle wrote to his wife during their Canadian tour, and Kariaa Kuusisto examines the improvements over the years in the Strand Magazine's illustration by Sidney Paget.
339. Nelsan Ellis died on July 8. He was a playwright, and an actor in film and on television, and played Shinwell Johnson in eleven episodes of the "Elementary" series.
340. Further to the report (Oct 11 #4) about the "Sherlock" violin made by Steve Burnett from wood from the 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, Roger Johnson reports an excellent web-site devoted to the violin <www.tinyurl.com/y97dj8hm>, where you can read about its history, and listen to it being played by Ari Batikian in Usher Hall in Edinburgh.
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341. Jul 17 #4 Michael Bond died on June 27. Bond created Paddington Bear in 1957, found a publisher in 1958, and went on to write 14 books about Paddington that sold 35 million copies worldwide and were translated into 40 languages, including Latin. Paddington also starred in a BBC television series in the 1970s and in a film in 2014, and his creator was appointed OBE in 1997 and CBE in 2015 for services to literature. Paddington used Sherlockian methods, and dialogue, in "Paddington Turns Detective" in MORE ABOUT PADDINGTON (1959) and PADDINGTON ON STAGE (1977). There is an image of Sherlock Paddington (designed by Benedict Cumberbatch) in the Nov. 2014 issue of this newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/yad7rhba>; the statue later sold in a charity auction for £17,000.
342. "Oscar Wilde called on us again, and I am quite sure no good will come of it this time either" is a grand way to begin a story, for those who like to collect great opening sentences; this one will be found in a new Irene Adler story by Carole Nelson Douglas. Her "A Spirited Death" is one of the thirty stories in MALICE DOMESTIC 12: MYSTERY MOST HISTORICAL (Rockville: Wildside Press, 2017; 371 pp., \$19.99), an anthology of stories by some of the conference's best authors.
343. Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, has an interesting blog "Special & Rare on a Stick" in which he occasionally offers Sherlockian posts, such as "Regarding Sherlock" in February, when he made some intriguing comments on the BBC television series <www.umbookworm.blogspot.com/2017/02>.
344. The British Museum is planning to bring its world-famous Reading Room "to life again." The Reading Room, where Conan Doyle held a reader's card, was located in the Great Court of the British Museum, and was the main reading room of the British Library until 1997, when the Library was moved to a new building in St. Pancras.
345. The Television Academy has announced its nominations for this year's Emmy Awards, and "Sherlock: The Lying Detective" won nominations in four categories: one for Benedict Cumberbatch (lead actor in a limited series or movie) and three for the program (outstanding television movie; outstanding sound mixing for a limited series, movie, or special; and outstanding sound editing for a limited series, movie, or special. The Emmy Award presentation will be broadcast in September.
346. Further to the item about the giant rat of Sinatra (Jun 17 #3), Basil Rathbone did indeed appear on "The Frank Sinatra Show" on Mar. 24, 1951; there is a link to the 7-minute segment at Greg Ruby's "The Fourth Garrideb" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc2sexof>, along with diffusion of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Sinatra in 1998.
347. The list of Sherlockian collections at libraries continues to grow: Michael Bragg blogged on June 23 in the Parallelogram (the newsletter of the Parallel Case of St. Louis) <www.tinyurl.com/yddsdzde> about the St. Louis Sherlockian Collection at the main branch of the St. Louis Public Library. The

collection was started by Mary Schroeder in the 1990s and recently expanded by material donated by Bill Cochran. Cataloguing is underway, and the collection is scheduled to be unveiled this fall.

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348. Jul 17 #5 Louis Le Prince, a French inventor who filmed the first moving pictures (on paper film with a single-lens camera) and is credited as the father of cinematography, filmed his first moving pictures in 1888 and then mysteriously vanished from a train in 1890, before he could demonstrate his invention to the public. Irfan Shah, co-author of the documentary "The First Film: The Greatest Mystery in Cinema History" (2015), is writing a biography of Le Prince and has an interesting web-site about him <www.tinyurl.com/yaelqhw7> that offers brief glimpses of films he made in Oct. 1888 (less than a year after "A Study in Scarlet" was published).
349. THE CASE OF THE VANISHING PRAIRIE, by John Parr (Simcoe: Davus Publishing, 2015; 112 pp., \$12.00) is a comic pastiche: Watson decides to strike out on his own in the Old West, becomes a veterinarian, encounters Dr. Acula (and his assistant Igor), deals with local ranchers, Indians, and a mysterious Old Timer; available from the publisher <www.davuspublishing.com>.
350. Will Thomas' THE FATAL ENQUIRY (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 293 pp., \$25.99) is an exciting addition to his series featuring Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman"); Barker is assisted, as usual, by Thomas Llewelyn (they battle a vicious killer who is Barker's long-time adversary, and we learn some details about Barker's mysterious back-story).
351. Charlotte Montague's CREATING SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE REMARKABLE STORY OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (New York: Chartwell Books, 2017; 192 pp., \$14.99) is a colorful introduction to Conan Doyle's heritage, career, and writings, with synopses of each of the Canonical tales, and a final chapter on "The Sherlock Holmes Legacy" (all in all a nice gift for someone who's just entering the Sherlockian/Doylean world).
352. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Forged Stradivari: Did We Miss a Vital Clue for 130 Years?" is the title of an interesting post by Rachael Durkin (lecturer in music at Edinburgh Napier University) about the violins owned by Sherlock Holmes, and by another detective whose memoirs Conan Doyle may have read <www.tinyurl.com/ttd6ruq>.
353. Howard Ostrom reports that Riva del Garda (in northern Italy) is celebrating Sherlock Holmes in this year's "Notte di Fiaba" on Aug. 24-27; details at <www.tinyurl.com/y7vau3th>. Click on the WWW button for information on all of the events, and play the YouTube video to see a preview for an app game that will be available during the festival.
354. Further to earlier reports (Mar 04 #1 and Sep 09 #1) on the Sherlockian and Doylean names of streets in Sherlock Holmes Estates in southeastern Carroll County, Md., Julie Snell reports that a number of homes are available for purchase by anyone who might want to live there <www.tinyurl.com/yccwto8a>.
355. The Historical Society of the New York Courts publishes a series of calendars devoted to "Literature in the New York Courts", and this year they've chosen the title "Cases & Quotations" (presenting a colorful discussion of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for June). The society's president, the Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt, creates the calendars, and copies of this year's version are available from AI for \$4.00 postpaid (300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569).
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356. Jul 17 #6 Howard Ostrom reports audio of Jack Benny as Sherlock Holmes on "The Jell-O Program at YouTube: on June 4, 1939, the show previewed the following week's performance of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/yacr9l9l>, and on June 11 the program included a 12-minute segment parodying the story (with a fine performance by Andy Devine as the Hound) <www.tinyurl.com/ydxm3jqc>.
357. Harris Pest Control in South Carolina displays a modest silhouette of Sherlock Holmes at its web-site <www.harrispestcontrolinc.com>, and (spotted by Jennie Paton) a much more Sherlockian animation "Sherlock and the Case of the Termites" at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ybsgzmvy>.
358. Artwork for "The Old Grey Fox" at auction, at Menzies in Sydney, Australia, on Aug. 10 <www.menziesartbrands.com/items/old-grey-fox>: six paintings by George Goodwin Kilburne, conceived as illustrations to accompany the poem, which was published in Conan Doyle's SONGS OF ACTION (1898) and THE POEMS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE--COLLECTED EDITION (1922); does anyone know when and where and by whom the poem was published with these illustrations?
359. The Magic Door IV in Pomona, Calif., is the fourth in a series of used-book stores owned by Dwain Kaiser, who in 1967 named his first store in honor of the book written by Arthur Conan Doyle. Kaiser unfortunately was shot and killed this month, but his widow Joann plans to keep the store open and to continue his legacy.
360. Trevor Baxter died on July 16. He had a long acting career on television, stage, and screen, and was a playwright as well. Sherlockians will recall him as Prof. Litefoot in "Doctor Who: The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977).
361. "Would Sherlock Holmes Pay £1.7m for 221B Baker Street?" was the question asked by Which? Mortgage Advisors. That's £1.7 million, and you can read about Paul Ryan's estimates for Holmes' two-bedroom Georgian flat and other (mostly) fictional properties at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ybjgn29f>.
362. Theodora Goss' THE STRANGE CASE OF THE ALCHEMIST'S DAUGHTER (New York: Saga Press, 2017; 402 pp., \$24.99) was inspired, she notes, by a question: Why did so many of the mad scientists in nineteenth-century narratives create, or start creating but then destroy, female monsters? Her answer involves characters from books written by Stevenson, Wells, Hawthorne, Shelley, and Stoker; Holmes and Watson appear in the story, consulted by Mary Jekyll and assisting the ladies in an imaginative tale.
363. "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the Wilbur D. May Museum in Reno, Nev., on July 29, and will run through Oct. 29 <www.maycenter.com>.
364. One can find just about everything important on-line at Wikipedia, and it's interesting to see that their explanation of "Canon (fiction)" notes that "the term was first used by analogy in the context of fiction to refer to the Sherlock Holmes stories and novels." Thanks, of course, to Ronald Knox and his landmark biblical analysis, with a tip of the hat to Sabrina Flynn, who noted the explanation in a post to the Mary Russell e-mail list.
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365. Jul 17 #7 Further to the item (Apr 17 #2) about Joseph Caminada, the Manchester policeman who began his career as a police constable in 1868 and had risen to the rank of superintendent of the city's police force when he retired in 1899 and became a private detective (some have suggested that he was an inspiration for Sherlock Holmes), Mancunian Matters reported on July 19 that a 15-bedroom hotel and pub in Manchester is to be named in honor of Caminada <www.tinyurl.com/y995vvy9>.
366. When in Dijon: you can visit "221B Baker Street" (le bar des passionnés de Sherlock Holmes) <www.tinyurl.com/y9dstcgk>. Kindly reported by Howard Ostrom, who spotted it on-line (rather than in Dijon).
367. Lora Roberts' THE AFFAIR OF THE INCOGNITO TENANT (Palo Alto: Perseverance Press/John Daniel & Co., 2004; 264 pp., \$13.95), subtitled "a mystery with Sherlock Holmes," stars Charlotte Dodson, a housekeeper in Sussex, who discovers that her tenant, a Mr. Sigerson, is of great assistance in solving a mystery; it's an amusing story, and the book's still in print (and available at deep discount at Amazon).

368. Nick Utechin discovered a 221B cocktail on the menu at the St. James Bar at The Balcon in London: Metaxa Greek brandy, creme de fig infused with chai tea, liquorice bitters, lime juice, honey, and dark chocolate syrup, shaken with egg white (for only £16.00) <www.thebalconlondon.com>. There's also a Jekyll & Hyde cocktail, with recipe (and price) just as awful.
369. Orlando Pearson's THE REDACTED SHERLOCK HOLMES is a three-volume series of collections of pastiches, a mix of "what came after" extensions of Canonical cases, and other cases that involve Holmes and Watson with tax evasion, climate change, the royal family, cricket and the rise of Hitler in 1930, and much more; the first volume was published by Clink Street in 2015 (86 pp., \$8.99) and the second and third by MX Publishing in 2016 (173/227 pp., \$12.95/\$14.95). The author's web-site is at <www.orlandopearson.com>, and MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
370. Note that MX books are available at Amazon and elsewhere, but also at The Strand Magazine's web-site <www.strandmag.com> at better prices, and if you put "Hounds" in the order notes you'll also get a free Sherlockian bookmark as well as a discount on anything Sherlockian.
371. That's "Hounds" as in "The Hound of the Internet" (they're perhaps the old-on-going Sherlockian list-serv). Details on the Hounds of the Internet can be found at <www.sherlockian.net/hounds>, the web-site that was created by Chris Redmond in 1994, and recently was transferred to Michigan State University's WIDE Research Center (it's a valuable resource for the ever-growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians).
372. H. B. Lyle's THE IRREGULAR (New York: Quercus, 2017; 294 pp., \$26.99) features Wiggins, as a young man employed by Sherlock Holmes, and as an Army veteran in 1909 involved in the creation of the Secret Service Bureau (later split into MI5 and MI6); it's a colorful story, and the start of a series. The British edition is THE IRREGULAR: A DIFFERENT CLASS OF SPY (from Hodder & Stoughton, £17.99), and Mike Stotter's interview with Lyle is online at <www.shotsmag.co.uk/interview_view.aspx?interview_id=302>.
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373. Jul 17 #8 And (as always) there's theater: the Illyria theater company is touring its open-air production of "The Lost World" in Britain through Sept. 3; the schedule is available at <www.illyria.uk.com>, and a photograph of the cast (without the company's "debutant dinosaur") ran with a story in the Lancashire Evening Post <www.tinyurl.com/ybnbm2o2>. This is not the first time the story has been staged (it was performed England in 2003 and in Russia in 2014).
374. Kandie Carle's "William Gillette: Senator's Son to Super Sleuth" is being performed by the East Haddam Stage Company at Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam, Conn., on weekends through Aug. 13 <www.ehsco.org>.
375. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Lighthouse Festival Theatre in Port Dover, Ont., through Aug. 12 <www.lighthouse theatre.com>, And it's due at the Melbourne Civic Theatre in Melbourne, Fla., Oct. 6-Nov. 12 <www.mymct.org>; at the Playhouse in Liverpool, Dec. 7-Jan. 13 <www.everymanplayhouse.com>; and at Stage West in Calgary, Feb. 9-Apr. 15, 2018 <www.stagewestcalgary.com>.
376. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at Sand Harbor in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park through Aug. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/yc5mafzd>. And at the Bauer Theatre at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S. through Aug. 26 <www.stfx.ca>. And it is scheduled at the New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth, Hants., Aug. 30-Sept. 2 <www.newtheatreroyal.com>.
377. Linda Hein has reported from Baker Street West <www.bakerstreetwest.com> in Jackson, Calif.: the Baker Street Players Radio Theatre: will perform "The Problem of Thor Bridge" and "Murder in the Casbah" on Aug. 4 and 5, and "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Tolling Bell" on Aug. 17 and 18 (all from the old radio series starring either Basil Rathbone or Tom Conway). The Baker Street Players also will perform "A Study in Sherlock: The Last Voyage" as dinner mystery theater on Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 and 11.
378. "The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is scheduled at the Phillips County Events Center in Holyoke, Colo., Aug. 11-13 <www.phillipscountyplayers.weebly.com>.
379. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at St. Stephen's Anglican Hall in Adamstown, N.S.W., Aug. 11-Sept. 2; web-site at <www.theatreonbrunker.com>. Also at The Mowlen in Swanage, Dorset, Aug. 24-29 <www.mowlemtheatre.co.uk>.
380. Jennifer Berman's "The Last Séance, the Odd Friendship of Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" is due at the Hudson Guild Theater in New York from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/y7o2fbzz>.
381. "Sherlock Holmes and the Hooded Lance" (a new play by Pat Whymark and Julian Harries) will be performed at the New Wolsey Studio in Ipswich, Suffolk, Jan. 8-13, 2018 <www.wolseytheatre.co.uk>.
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382. Aug 17 #1 Bonnie MacBird's UNQUIET SPIRITS: WHISKY, GHOSTS, MURDER (London: Collins Crime Club, 2017; 492 pp., £14.99) delivers on the promise of its subtitle; it's a sequel to her ART IN THE BLOOD (2015), with a complicated mystery in France and Scotland, and revelations about Holmes' life before he became a detective; the American edition is due in October. The author has an interesting web-site <www.macbird.com> where she blogs and offers annotations on both books, and there's a third novel (DEVIL'S DUE) in the works to extend the series.
383. Further to the mention of Anthony Boucher (Jun 17 #1), you can learn a lot more about him in a recent post at Ray Betzner's blog "Studies in Starrett" <www.tinyurl.com/ycps74zy>. Boucher and Starrett were correspondents and friends.
384. Denny Dobry has kindly volunteered to raise funds for the BSI Trust, selling material donated to the Trust that is not historically tied to the BSI, and you can find this material at eBay; his seller name is wiggins221b, and you can make him a favorite seller. At the moment he is offering a first day cover, signed by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, of the set of Sherlock Holmes stamps issued by the Royal Mail in 1993, and there's more to come. You can contact Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>.
385. June Foray died on July 26. She began her career as a voice actress on radio at the age of 12, and provided voices for an astounding range of characters; animator Chuck Jones once said that "June Foray is not the female Mel Blanc; Mel Blanc was the male June Foray." She voiced Rocket J. Squirrel on the long-running series "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show" and was Natasha Fatale in the same series (in one episode Natasha pretended to be Dr. Watkins to Boris Badenov's Herlock Soames), and she participated in a KPFK- FM (Los Angeles) reading of the entire Canon produced by Mike Hodel in Dec. 1980.
386. Further to the item (Jun 17 #1) on Flicker Alley's upcoming Blu-ray edition of "The Lost World" (1925), with added features, you can still order at a discount <www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s>, and see a short but colorful preview.
387. For those who want to know where you can stand with one foot in North America and the other foot in Europe: Iceland. That's where the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which separates the two tectonic plates comes to the surface and one can stand on the boundary without getting one's feet wet. We also saw the original geyser, which is located in the Haukadalur valley. The Great Geysir (from the Icelandic verb geysa, which means "gush") is the first geyser described in print, and it has been active for about 10,000 years and has given its name to all the others.

388. Aug 17 #2 Paul Voodini is a professional mind-reader, psychic, and mentalist, and a magician, and is happy to share some of his routines: his NINJA MIND-READING SECRETS is a 56-page PDF file that includes "The Baker Street Tarot" (allegedly reprinted from the Christmas 1892 issue of The Strand Magazine), available (£20.00) at <www.readerofminds.co.uk>. He also has written a "gas-lamp mystery" THE CURIOUS CASE OF JACK THE RIPPER, CONAN DOYLE, & HOUDINI, available (124 pp., \$14.00) at <www.lulu.com>.
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389. "Looking for ice cream? Just call Furlock Holmes" was the slogan used last year by Blue Bunny ice cream, kindly reported by Eric Sveum <www.bluebunny.com/where-to-buy>. A Google search for [furlock holmes] reveals a company called Furlock Holmes Animal Care (in Whitchurch, Hants.), as well as some amusing videos and Cheezburger images. Dog-lovers might want to do a search for [furlock bones].
390. "The Reconstruction of the Crime" is a previously-unpublished play, written by J. M. Barrie and E. V. Lucas, and now in print for the first time in the latest issue of The Strand Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/y85uv7we>. The play is subtitled "a sensational scene in which the victim requests the audience to assist him in the detection of a criminal," and it has been described by some as "a hilarious send-up of a Sherlockian story." It's nice to recall that Barrie and Lucas each wrote Sherlockian or Doylean parodies.
391. The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has occasional Sherlockian content; it's published quarterly, and managing editor Andrew Gulli has a knack for finding previously unpublished stories. Subscriptions cost \$24.95 a year at their web-site <www.strandmag.com>.
392. More news from the Stepping Stones School, which has carefully restored Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home: the school will participate in the Heritage Open Day program, opening to the public on Sept. 10, with tours led restoration architect Mark Goodchild, and a talk by Bonnie MacBird, author of the pastiches ART IN THE BLOOD and UNQUIET SPIRITS; there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/y88pnzys>.
393. Many readers will have enjoyed this month's eclipse of the Sun, either total or partial, depending on where you were. So: "I had a chat with him on eclipses. How the talk got that way I canna think; but he had out a reflector lantern and a globe, and made it all clear in a minute." Now: who said that? And with whom did he have a chat?
394. The list of members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have written autobiographies isn't all that long, but it now includes Curtis Armstrong ("An Actor and a Rare One"). His REVENGE OF THE NERD (New York: Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's Press, 2017; 336 pp., \$26.99) is subtitled "Or...the singular adventures of the man who would be Booger," and he notes that in 1964 "Mr. Sherlock Holmes, and his friend and associate John H. Watson burst into my consciousness like a couple of drunken uncles into a bar mitzvah, forever altering my reality." He has more to say about Sherlockians, and of course much more about his long career as an actor, and it's nicely done indeed. If you would like to hear Scott Monty and Burt Wolder in conversation with Curtis, visit "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/ycku4few>.
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395. Aug 17 #3 Robert Hardy died on Aug. 3. He started his long career as an actor on stage in 1949, and is perhaps best remembered as Siegfried Farnon in the BBC television series "All Creatures Great and Small" (1978-1990) and as Minister for Magic (Cornelius Fudge in four "Harry Potter" films (2002-2007); he also played Sherlock Holmes on records in 1970 (with Nigel Stock as Watson), read from the Canon on records in 1984-1985, and was a grand Charles Augustus Milverton in Granada's "The Master Blackmailer" in 1992 (with Jeremy Brett as Holmes).
396. "Lion's Mane Jellyfish Alert on Ulster Beach" warned the headline on a story in the Belfast Telegraph this month <www.tinyurl.com/ycde2no7>. Michelle Hay of the Mulroy Coast Guard said the one sting "can cause potentially deadly anaphylactic shock," and that the Lion's Mane is the largest jellyfish to be found in Irish waters.
397. The uncommon variant of the poster for The Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce film "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943) offered at Heritage Auctions on July 29 (Jun 17 #6) sold for \$2,509.50 (including the buyer's premium); the only other known copy sold for \$2,151.00 on Nov. 21, 2015. A copy of the common variant sold for \$4,780.00 on July 30, 2016.
398. How many of you recognized that chat on eclipses (without looking it up in an index or running a text search)? Inspector MacDonald chatted with Professor Moriarty (in "The Valley of Fear").
399. Groombridge Place is in the news, boasting it has the longest and highest treetop walkway in Britain <www.tinyurl.com/y98xglds>; a story in the Independent noted that Conan Doyle often visited Groombridge, and that it was the inspiration for Birlstone Manor in THE VALLEY OF FEAR. Groombridge has a lot more to offer: their web-site's at <www.groombridgeplace.com>. Visitors can tour the grounds, but view the house only from across the moat.
400. Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian story "The Case of Lady Sannox" was adapted for television and broadcast in the series "Suspense" on CBS-TV on Dec. 27, 1949. And you can watch it at <www.tinyurl.com/yaq63km8>, in an entry in "The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" (which, as always, has much of Sherlockian and Doylean interest).
401. The Baker Street Journal always is interesting, but the summer 2017 issue is especially interesting. Mattias Boström's article "Ouida Before Rathbone" tells the colorful story of Eula Branch, who re-invented herself as Ouida Bergère, married Basil Rathbone, and wrote the ill-fated play "Sherlock Holmes". You can subscribe to the BSJ at www.bakerstreetjournal.com (\$41.95 a year for four issues plus the Xmas Annual).
402. Bruce Forsyth died on Aug. 18. A British television presenter and entertainer for more than 75 years, he was recognized by the Guinness World Records in 2012 as having had the longest television career for a male entertainer. One of the game shows he hosted was "You Bet!" on ITV, and on Feb. 24, 1990, one of the contestants was 15-year-old Sarah Elliott, answering questions about Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series; Oscar Ross has kindly reported the segment available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yb9xrlkn>.
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403. Aug 17 #4 The Swindon Advertiser has noted that John Blick, 45, charged with three counts of assault in March, will face trial before Chippenham magistrates on Sept. 20. This would not be all that important to readers of this newsletter, except that Mr. Blick lives on Conan Doyle Walk; it's one of the streets in a development that includes Conrad Close, Thackeray Court, Austen Crescent, and Carroll Close, and one can only assume that they were named by someone who liked to read.
404. The inaugural Irene Adler Prize has been awarded to Kiley Bense for her essay "A History of One's Own". The prize offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature, and was established 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", and you can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay, at <www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>.
405. Daniil Doubshin hopes to learn more about the statuette of Professor George Edward Challenger that appeared in a photograph in the Jan. 1913 issue of The Strand Magazine, promoting the publication of "The Poison Belt" (which began in March); the statuette was displayed "at the largest bookshop and bookstalls" where the public could buy THE LOST WORLD. Daniel believes that statuette was owned by Conan Doyle; does anyone know the

- identity of the artist, or where the statuette is now? The statuette does bear a striking resemblance to a photograph of Challenger in THE LOST WORLD <www.tinyurl.com/y9he2j2w>.
406. Reported: Otto Penzler has edited BIBLIOMYSTRIES: STORIES OF CRIME IN THE WORLD OF BOOKS AND BOOKSTORES (New York: Pegasus, 2017; 144 pp., \$26.95); it's an anthology of short mystery stories specially commissioned by Otto, and they include Lyndsay Faye's "The Gospel of Sheba" (May 14 #6), a tale that involves sublibrarian A. Davenport Lomax, a friend of Dr. Watson, who consults Sherlock Holmes about a rare (and dangerous) volume. You can read more about the bibliomysteries at <www.tinyurl.com/ycxr6ebp>.
407. Les Klinger notes that Douglas P. Lyle has posted about "Holmes, Thorndyke, Locard, Gross, and the Modern CSI" at the Crime Writer's Forensics Blog at <www.tinyurl.com/yc4oaya2>. Lyle, the author of FORENSICS FOR DUMMIES, has written for "CSI: Miami", "Monk", "Law & Order", and many other programs.
408. Charles Altamont Doyle's "The spirits of the prisoners" (which he painted at the Montrose Asylum) is on display in an exhibition of "Victorian Watercolors" at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney through Dec. 3; the painting, which is owned by the Gallery <www.tinyurl.com/y7w4wutp>, was purchased at auction at Christie's in New York in 2012 for \$16,500.
409. "A Yorkshire Fairie Tale" was a two-act play written by Thomas Diggs that was presented by On the Leesh Productions in New York in 2007; it was based on the Cottingley Fairies hoax, and Conan Doyle wasn't in the play. Nor is he in the musical based on the play, with music by Jay D'Amico: there's a web-site for "The Fairy Hoax" at <www.thefairyhoax.com>, with information about the musical and a chance to sample some of the songs.
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410. Aug 17 #5 Further to the list of Sherlockian collection at libraries (Jul 17 #4), add another one: the Donald J. Hobbs Sherlockian Collection, which Don has donated to Southern Methodist University. His extensive collection of translations of the Canon now includes 108 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets); he will work with SMU and continue to help curate the collection, pursuing new languages and continuing his search for three languages known but still missing from the collection.
411. Clarendon Serviced Apartments, based in London, offers floor plans for the apartments of seven famous fictional characters, including (of course) Sherlock Holmes in the series "Sherlock" <www.tinyurl.com/ycx9cea6>.
412. "A Leg to Stand On; the Law and the Sign of Four" is the title at E.J. Wagner's EJDissectingRoom blog for the brief filed by Senior Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Michael B. Miller, in which he quoted from the Canon <www.tinyurl.com/y7v6sg43>. The case was argued in 2008, and the defendants (including the county) won, both in federal district court and in the 8th circuit court of appeals.
413. Steve Mason reports that The Beacon Society has formed a new Junior Sherlockian Society for children and youth "eager to develop an understanding of the great detective Sherlock Holmes." They have an interesting web-site <www.juniorsherlockian.com> and an imaginative program.
414. The Irish Independent had a story on Aug. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/y9ldnuvw> on "three blokes from Russian who decided to make a Sherlock-esque game with echoes of monster hit Pokémon Go by setting up a company in Ireland." The game is "Silent Streets" and it's 19th-century Victorian but not Sherlockian; you can preview it at <www.silent-streets.com/#overview>.
415. Finally: something for Sherlockian fans of "Game of Thrones". Joanna Robinson, in a blog for Vanity Fair <www.tinyurl.com/ydg4cf5u>, draws an analogy, suggesting that Varys' network of Little Birds was inspired by Sherlock Holmes' Baker Street Irregulars.
416. The Wireless Theatre Company <www.wirelesstheatrecompany.co.uk> was founded in 2007, and offers an interesting variety of audio drama as MP3 downloads (£1.49 each); they're now celebrating summer by offering one free download, and there are two Sherlockian dramas: "Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back!" and "The Trial of Sherlock Holmes" (use the code FREESUMMER2017).
417. Sherlock Holmes fan Kaden Taylor tested his memory skills on July 24 on the one-hour Fox television series "SuperHuman" and received some publicity in the Phoenix New Times <www.tinyurl.com/y96q4vgj>; if any of my readers captured (and kept) this episode, please let me know.
418. Father J. Michael Venitti's A READER'S COMPANION TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (Pittsburgh: Dorrance, 2017; 137 pp., \$22.00) is, he notes, intended as a "handy and simple guide" to help navigate the Canon, and the book offers a brief biography of Conan Doyle and commentary on each of the stories, presented in the order in which they were first published.
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419. Aug 17 #6 Stephen Moffat, interviewed at Comic-Con San Diego, explained that one episode of "Sherlock" is "becoming a period piece before our eyes." The episode ("The Blind Banker") had a map being used to crack the code; "At that point [in 2010] it was absolutely true that everybody in London, including you, if you were visiting London, owned an A TO Z," he said. "A very small number of years later absolutely nobody owns an A TO Z, it's all on their iPhones--it doesn't work." Actually, the book is still print: a 2016 edition is available from Amazon.
420. Ben Kingsley recorded seven stories for Dove Books on Tape some years ago (Jun 89 #8): A TREASURY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Scan, RedH, Twis, Croo, Card, Copp, and SixN) is now available for download as an unabridged audiobook at Audible <www.audible.com>.
421. "I am a strong man with a J pen and a weakling with a Waverley," wrote Conan Doyle to Russell Goodwin-Smith, in one of three autograph letters that sold for £11,000 at auction in March 2015 <www.tinyurl.com/q8a3q5x>. It's a nice reminder of the distant days when people wrote with wooden pens and steel nibs. J pens are mentioned in the Canon (in "The Cardboard Box" and in "The Greek Interpreter"), and Conan Doyle later used (and endorsed) the Parker Duofold fountain pen. It's intriguing to note that the Waverley was made by Macniven and Cameron, an Edinburgh-based company, and that the pen was named in honor of the Waverley novels written by Conan Doyle's literary hero Sir Walter Scott.
422. And for those who have a fondness for fountain pens: Dante Torrese reports that the Goulet Pen Company offers a wide variety of pens, inks, paper, and accessories, including a night blue De Atramentis Sherlock Holmes ink handmade by Dr. Franz-Joseph Jansen in Germany. \$12.95 for a 35ml bottle that has a Sherlockian image on the label <www.tinyurl.com/y8volfdc>.
423. The first issue of The Newspapers (an "Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana" edited by Greg Ruby for The Sherlockians of Baltimore) has been published, with 120 pp. of toasts, poems, articles, and much more, many by members of the SOB's; \$20.00 <www.fourthgarrideb.com/shop>.
424. Further to the item (Jan 17 #5) about plans to film Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" in western Canada, there's now an interesting web-site for the film <www.thedoctorsmovie.com>.
425. THE MAGICIAN AND THE SPIRITS, by Deborah Noyes (New York: Viking, 2017; 152 pp., \$18.95) is the story of "Harry Houdini and the Curious Pastime of Communicating with the Dead" told for young readers (ages 10 and up), and told nicely, with discussion, of course, of Houdini's relationship with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
426. Greg Ruby has reported the "Merrie Melodies" cartoon "Have You Got Any Castles?" (1938), nicely available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y9b5re94>; you get a brief glimpse (at 6:03 minutes) of books titled "The White Company" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles". It's an interesting challenge to try to identify all the people being parodied, but here's one: Alexander Woollcott, who had a radio program called "The Town Crier" (and was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars in the days before Investitures were awarded).

427. Aug 17 #7 Liu Zhen reports from China that Sherlock Holmes is very popular there, and that there are more than 500 translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories into Chinese, including THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES. The most popular of the translations is the complete Canon, from the Qunzhong Publishing House, with more than 1.8 million copies in print. There's also a Murder Pen project that publishes translations of golden-age detective fiction and non-fiction, and there are translations of three essays from Dorothy L. Sayers' SAYERS ON HOLMES (2001) at their web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/yc6qhf7s>. You can also ask Liu Zhen <ellry@163.com> for information about The Chinese Sherlock Holmes Society in Shanghai.
428. The colorful edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (published by O'Mara in England and by the Mysterious Press in the U.S. in 1987) included all of Frederic Dorr Steele's illustrations for Collier's (including the covers in full color) and an insightful introduction by Andrew Malec, and is available in a Kindle edition at Amazon (\$0.99) <www.tinyurl.com/ycy2pbft>.
429. Simpson's-in-the-Strand, which has long been a destination for Sherlockians who want to visit (and dine at) establishments mentioned in the Canon, was closed for renovation on Apr. 17 (Mar 17 #3); it's now open again, with an enhanced-but-still-traditional menu, and you can read all about it at the Big Hospitality web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yahtexab>. Their web-site also has been renovated <www.simpsonsinthestrland.co.uk>, and (alas) now has no discussion of the restaurant's long and colorful history.
430. Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese in London "once boasted Samuel Johnson and Arthur Conan Doyle as regulars," according to a story in the Independent on July 2 <www.tinyurl.com/y93tpjkm>, inspired by the decision of the Samuel Smith pub chain (which owns the Cheshire Cheese) to ban swearing at all its establishments. Devotees of Johnson have long cast doubt on his ever having frequented the Cheshire Cheese, and there's no evidence whatsoever that Conan Doyle ever visited.
431. Kenneth Manzanares has been charged with killing his wife Kristy on an Alaska-bound cruise ship, The Emerald Princess, on a night the entertainment was a murder-mystery theater about a death on a cruise ship; according to one of the passengers, "we were at a Sherlock Holmes murder mystery" when an announcement a medical alert was announced over the intercom, and people thought it was part of the play <www.tinyurl.com/y8zvpdhf>.
432. Jerry Lewis died on Aug. 20. He was a master slapstick comedian who began his career with Dean Martin at a nightclub in 1946, and starred with him on "The Colgate Comedy Hour" (which included a skit in 1952 with Lewis playing Sherlock Fink) <www.tinyurl.com/yd6tz08d>. He also played Skylock Peyton (with Sebastian Cabot as Dr. Matson in the film "Family Jewels (1965).
433. David Harnois continues to add to his dramatized readings of the Canon, and now offers the first six stories at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>; you can listen to or download the dramatized readings, which are nicely done. He also has links to an audio recording of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (which was made by Lisa Woods and Linda Pritchard on Mar. 20, 1989); it has been remastered by Alison Carter.
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434. Aug 17 #8 "Calling all Anglophiles to the third annual Britsburgh Festival" was the headline on an announcement of six days and twenty events scheduled on Sept. 5-10 in Pittsburgh <www.britsburgh.com>; at one of the events, on Sept. 9, people will have an opportunity to discuss "The Six Napoleons" with members of the Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers (the local Sherlockian society) and to hear a talk by historian Len Bacousky about Conan Doyle's visit to Pittsburgh in 1923.
435. And there's theater: "A Scandal in the Weimar" (a new play by Claire Bowen and Jennifer Piper featuring "Lady Sherlock Holmes, Nazis, and cabaret") is on at the Bluestone Church Arts Space in Footscray, Vic., through Sept. 9 <www.witinc.com.au>.
436. Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" is running at the DAPA Theatre on Beaumont in Hamilton, N.S.W, through Sept. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/ycp7upyb>.
437. "The Return to Baker Street" (a new play from by Dan Bray and Jacob Sampson) is being performed at the Waiting Room in Halifax, N.S., through Sept. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/y8vz6m9h>.
438. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is being performed at the Ashley Stage in Berkeley, Calif., through Sept. 10; web-site at <www.shotgunplayers.org>.
439. "Sherlock Holmes and the Crimson Cobbles" (a new play by Toby Hulse) will be performed at the Salisbury Playhouse in Salisbury, Wilts., Sept. 12-16 <www.tinyurl.com/yadjzl9>; click on "further information" to see a colorful Education Pack, and there is a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/yaluurg9>. The play then will be performed at the Theatre Chipping Norton in Chipping Norton, Oxon., Sept. 19-24 <www.tinyurl.com/y8yzzk4a>, and after than tour in Britain.
440. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the West Allis Central Auditorium in West Allis, Wis., from Oct. 6 to Oct. 15 <www.westallisplayers>.
441. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at The ZACK in St. Louis, Mo., on Oct. 12-19 <www.insighttheatrecompany.com>; and by the Fairbanks Drama Association at the Riverfront Theatre in Fairbanks, Alaska, Oct. 20-Nov. 5 <www.fairbanksdrama.org>.
442. The play also will tour after its production by the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, Jan. 2-Feb. 4, and the full schedule for the tour's available at <www.baylinartists.com/walnut-street-theatre>.
443. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre in Orlando, Fla., Oct. 11-Nov. 19 <www.orlandoshakes.org>; and at the Chesil Theatre in Winchester, Hants., Nov. 18-25 <www.chesiltheatre.org.uk>; and at the Little Theatre in Colne, Lancs., Mar. 5-9, 2018.
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444. Sep 17 #1 "The Strange Case of the Megatherium Thefts" is an amusing pastiche written by S. C. Roberts, first published in 1945 and then included in his collection HOLMES AND WATSON: A MISCELLANY in 1953, involving thefts from the library of the Megatherium in London. And it turns out that there really was a Megatherium Club, in Washington rather than in London. Its members were scientists who lived in the Smithsonian Castle in its early years and their club was named in honor of a recently-discovered giant sloth. There's more about the Megatherium, and its four young naturalists, in a recent blog at the Smithsonian Institution's web-site <www.si.edu/megatherium>.
445. "Ninety percent of intelligence comes from open sources. The other ten percent, the more clandestine work, is just more dramatic. The real intelligence hero is Sherlock Holmes, not James Bond." According to the late Lt. Gen. Sam Wilson, former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, quoted by Van Hipp on Fox News <www.tinyurl.com/y9np5ygw>.
446. Further to the item about Goyard of Paris and the "writing trunk" they made on commission from Conan Doyle in 1925 (Nov 16 #5), the company has opened a flagship store on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills; the company's impressive web-site is at <www.goyard.com>.
447. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) has an interesting article by Al Dawson ("Six Steps to Douglas Ainslie" that connects Ainslie, Seymour Hicks, Ellaline Terriss, William Terriss, Bert Coules, and Arthur

- Conan Doyle); and more news from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
448. Pierre Berloquin's SOLVING SHERLOCK HOLMES: PUZZLE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE CASES (New York: Wellfleet, 2017; 192 pp., \$21.99) is an imaginative approach to the Canon; the author has written more than 50 books of puzzles, and in this attractively-illustrated volume uses six stories to present 144 puzzles of varying complexity.
449. Pan Macmillan is celebrating its 70th anniversary of the first Pan paperback with a "Pan 70th Collection" of 20 of their "best-loved, best-selling" stories, with redesigned covers, and one of them is THE LOST WORLD; you can see the new cover designs at <pages.panmacmillan.com/pan-70>.
450. Hazel Gaynor's THE COTTINGLEY SECRET (New York: William Morrow, 2017; 389 pp., \$15.99) is a well-written novel that tells the stories of two women: Olivia Kavanagh in modern-day Ireland, and Frances Griffiths, whose diary Olivia finds, and it's a delightful and warm celebration of the centenary of the Cottingley Fairies.
451. There's no shortage of knitted brows in the Canon, but the "dear old ruddy-faced woman in a country cap" is the only person who actually knitted (in "His Last Bow"). Sherlockian knitters surely will be interested in Joanna Johnson's SHERLOCK KNITS: PATTERNS INSPIRED BY THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS CONSULTING DETECTIVE (Loveland: Slate Falls Press, 2016; 48 pp., \$12.95).
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452. Sep 17 #2 Further to the item about the statuette of Professor George Edward Challenger (Aug 17 #4), the image of the statuette disappeared from the web-site, but you can see it in the Inner Circle at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>. Daniil Doubshin believes that Conan Doyle owned a copy of the statuette, and would like to know where the statuette is now, and the name of the artist. Daniil's at <txt@list.ru>.
453. Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK (Apr 17 #4) is receiving excellent and widespread reviews, and interesting podcast interviews, including his conversation with Jacke Wilson in "The History of Literature" series at <www.tinyurl.com/yaw4ebj> and his conversation with Burt Wolder and Scott Monty at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/y89egfls>.
454. Catherine Cooke found an imaginative Sherlock Bones Pug figurine (about 10" tall) in a shop in London (£15.99); it benefits the British Heart Foundation <www.bhf.org.uk> but isn't available at their web-site. Their web-site does, it should be noted, have two Sherlockian birthday cards www.tinyurl.com/y9tbbkuy <www.tinyurl.com/y9tbbkuy> <www.tinyurl.com/y9tbbkuy>.
455. What was the "A.D.P. brier-root pipe" that was owned by John Straker (in "Silver Blaze")? Sherlockian scholars have long wondered, with many if not most suggesting an Alfred Dunhill Pipe, but now Dino Argyropoulos, editor of the Grimpen Mire Gazette (published by Hugo's Companions), has discovered an advertisement for a trademarked A.D.P. pipe in 1885 in the British Trade Journal. If you'd like to know more, you can request a PDF copy of the newsletter from Dino <dargy@sbcglobal.net>.
456. Another Sherlockian cocktail, from the St. James Bar at The Balcon in London: the 221B (Metaxa Greek brandy, chai tea-infused crème de fig, liquorice bitters, lime juice, honey, and dark chocolate syrup, shaken with egg white), described as complex and velvety, dangerously easy to drink, in an article in The Telegraph (July 14) <www.tinyurl.com/yzof5gft>.
457. The animated movie "Sherlock Gnomes" (formerly known as "Gnomeo and Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" and scheduled for release on Jan. 12) will now be released on Mar. 23. Johnny Depp voices the title character: the world's greatest ornamental detective, who is called in to investigate why gnomes are vanishing from England's suburban gardens.
458. Richard Masloski sculpted Holmes and Watson in the 1980s. Alexander Orlov has kindly reported Masloski's post at Facebook www.tinyurl.com/y8esf7rc about his sculpture "The Game Is Afoot" (a model for a proposed life-size monument to Holmes and Watson). You also can see him with an older sculpture at <www.tinyurl.com/y9nnzhun>.
459. Conan Doyle's WHY WE MUST FIGHT AN UNENDING WAR is a book that doesn't exist, except on p. 37 of Stephen Baxter's THE MASSACRE OF MANKIND (New York: Crown, 2017; 453 pp., \$27.00). In Baxter's sequel to H. G Wells' THE WAR OF THE WORLDS, set in 1920, the Martians are back, and in Michael Dirda's Washington Post review of the book <www.tinyurl.com/y9e7594v>, he mentions Conan Doyle having written "a jingoist book" praising General Marvin, who managed to knock out one of the Martians' original fighting machines.
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460. Sep 17 #3 "I hate reformers," Dorothy Parker once wrote, "They raise my blood pressure." And she hated the movie censors: "They insist that Sherlock Holmes is made to say, 'Quick, Watson, the crochet needle!'" That's just part of a poem ("Reformers: A Hymn of Hate") she wrote for NONSENSEORSHIP, an anthology published in 1922 and recently discovered by Ross Davies. Good luck finding a copy of the first edition: as this paragraph was written, only one copy was advertised on-line, for \$350.00. But if you only want to read the poem, the book has been digitized, and you'll find it at <www.tinyurl.com/y96wwqv7>.
461. The Research Society for Victorian Periodicals <www.rs4vp.org> has issued a call for papers for a special issue of Victorian Periodicals Review devoted to The Strand Magazine; they're seeking original essays on a wide variety of topics, with abstracts due by Dec. 1.
462. Ehsan Ehsani presides over the on-line magazine "Mystery Tribune" and offers an interesting list of "six top apps for the ultimate Sherlock Holmes fan" <www.tinyurl.com/y7hufqgx>.
463. Sharks are mentioned in two of the stories ("The Sign of the Four" and "The Valley of Fear"), and in a third story if you want to include Count Negretto Sylvius ("The Mazarin Stone"); eight sharks are shown on an attractive mini-sheet issued by the U.S. Postal Service earlier this year.
464. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London offers a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise at its web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop>, and has discounted the price of TO KEEP THE MEMORY GREEN, the tribute to Richard Lancelyn Green edited by Steven Rothman and Nicholas Utechin in 2007. A SINGULAR COUNTRYSIDE is the Society's just-published handbook for its expedition to Norfolk this year, and their Christmas card for 2017 is a handsomely-colored of Sidney Paget's wintry artwork for "The Abbey Grange".
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465. Sep 17 #4 "If you want to do a cop's job, but you're not a cop, what are your options?" Anthony Lane asked in a review of (non-Sherlockian) films in The New Yorker (Sept. 11); he began his answer by noting that "Sherlock Holmes called himself a 'consulting detective,' on the strength of which he was repeatedly invited by members of the police force to demonstrate that they were dithering fools."
466. I don't recall anyone reporting the really big news from Comic-Con in San Diego in 2016: Mark Gatiss announced that there will not be a fifth season of "Sherlock". You can watch the "Sherlock" panel at YouTube, and that's exactly what he said, adding that there will be a sixth season.
467. RSI (radiotelevisione svizzera) broadcast some colorful coverage of the Sherlockians who toured Switzerland and Italy in August and September (Jan 17 #5): the coverage starts at 6:48 <www.tinyurl.com/ybvv4uz>.
468. The "Pop Sherlock" exhibition in the TD Gallery at the Toronto Public Library continues through Oct. 22, <www.tinyurl.com/grnc2q5>; it celebrates Sherlock Holmes as the "ultimate pop culture icon" with "an eclectic array" of items from the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

469. Belanger Books (in association with Arkham House Publishing) has launched a Kickstarter campaign for David Marcum's *THE PAPERS OF SOLAR PONS*, a collection of new stories featuring Solar Pons, the delightful homage to Sherlock Holmes created by August Derleth; Vincent Starrett once called Solar Pons a "clever impersonator, with a twinkle in his eye." Kickstarter has more information about the book at <www.tinyurl.com/ybaywlu6>.
470. Big Chief Studios is now at work on figures of Sherlock and John from "The Abominable Bride", but they're also offering a 30% discount on their "221B Baker Street Door Diorama" <www.tinyurl.com/y7dxmjpp>, ideal for displaying their upcoming 1:6 figures of Sherlock and John, or their current versions.
471. The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps honoring Ladybird Books for the long series of books that helped generations of children learn how to read. None of the stamps show the Sherlockian titles published by Ladybird, but there were some: *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* (1982) and *BASIL, THE GREAT MOUSE DETECTIVE* (1987).
472. "Quote Investigator: Dedicated to Tracing Quotations" is a useful web-site maintained by Garson O'Toole <www.quoteinvestigator.com>; a few years ago (May 13 #5) the web-site had imaginative Sherlockian artwork, but now there also are some interesting hits if you search for [sherlock holmes].
473. Maria Konnikova has written *MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2013) and *THE CONFIDENCE GAME: WHY WE FALL FOR IT...EVERY TIME* (2016), and her next book will explore the balance of luck and skill in our daily lives (using No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em as a metaphor for life); she has spent more than a year playing professional poker, and worked her way up to the World Series of Poker, and you can read all about it in the blog at her interesting web-site <www.mariakonnikova.com>. She also has ten interesting podcasts about con artists at The Grift www.thegriftpodcast.com>.
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474. Sep 17 #5 Sherry Thomas' new *A CONSPIRACY IN BELGRAVIA* (New York: Berkley Books, 2017; 317 pp., \$15.00) is a sequel to *A STUDY IN SCARLET WOMEN* (Aug 16 #1); she's an established writer of historical romances, and the series features Charlotte Holmes, who does her detecting pretending to be "Sherlock Holmes" and finds both mystery and romance in an imaginative tale that offers nice surprises, and interesting characters. The author's web-site is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.
475. Alexander Orlov has noted that the German film "Sherlock Holmes: Die graue Dame" (1937) with Herman Speelmans as Jimmy Ward/Sherlock Holmes is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yb756v4f>. It's all in German, of course, and one can only hope that some day there will be English subtitles.
476. Treasure is where you find it: builders renovating the home of a late cinema owner in Penarth (Wales) discovered 66 film posters that been used as carpet underlay after being displayed in local theaters from 1936 to 1940. One of them was a 12-sheet poster for "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) estimated at £600-£1,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y6vr6w72>; it was sold for £13,000 (apparently because it is a variant so rare that it's not recorded at Google Images. It was the second-most expensive poster in the auction; first place went to a 12-sheet poster for "Stage Coach (1939), which sold for £31,000. Ben Rogers Jones (the auctioneer) was quoted in the *Antiques Trade Gazette* as saying that the Texas-based buyer of the poster "told us that there is quite a good market in the U.S. for posters that suggest the British stiff upper lip."
477. If you've wondered about Sherlock's fancy chair at 221B Baker Street in the BBC television series, a story in the *Financial Times* (sorry: there's a pay-wall) explains that it's a Le Corbusier 1959 Grand Confort LC3. The chair was designed by the Swiss-French architect in 1928, and you can buy the 1959 model from the Conran Shop <www.conranshop.co.uk> for £4,728 or find modern versions in other shops and on-line at lower prices. There's also a love-seat available, in case you want a mind palace built for two.
478. "Asian-American Actresses Describe Struggle of Being Typecast as Sherlock Holmes" is the headline on an amusing story in *The Onion*, kindly forwarded by Dana Richards <www.tinyurl.com/ycc4xsov>. The *Onion*, self-described as "America's Finest News Source, was founded in 1988 long before the phrase "fake news" became so popular.
479. The show runners of "Sherlock" (and the actors) continue to tantalize fans with confusing answers to questions about a continuation of the series, and *Radio Times*, noting that Jodie Whittaker has been cast as the next Doctor Who, asked Benedict Cumberbatch whether he thought there might be a female Sherlock. "Why not," Cumberbatch replied, "I don't care." And he offered a suggestion: "Sherlockina, it's coming to you soon."
480. Jennie Paton has noted a video devoted to "Litigation and Literature in the N.Y. Courts: Shaw, Shakespeare, and Sherlock" <www.tinyurl.com/ydgc9ndn>; the interesting program was presented by the Historical Society of the N.Y. Courts on Feb 17, 2016, with the Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt (the society's president) presiding, and with readings by Paxton Whitehead.
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481. Sep 17 #6 Anyone who wants to follow in the footsteps of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle can pay a visit to Rochester Square in London, where the inscription on the foundation stone of the Rochester Square Spiritual Temple notes that it was laid by Sir Arthur in 1926 (Oct 90 #5). But you need to visit soon: the Spiritualists' National Union, which owns the building, proposes to demolish the temple, to make way for flats and a basement gallery, according to a story in the *Hampstead & Highgate Express* on Sept. 9 that includes an image of the foundation stone <www.tinyurl.com/y8vc8zld>.
482. Bill Barnes has reported from Australia that Sherlock Holmes, a six-year-old chestnut gelding, had his second race there on Sept. 23; he started at \$18 and finished fourth in a field of thirteen, his best result since moving to Australia from his native Ireland.
483. Conan Doyle lived briefly in Plymouth (in Devon) in 1882, when early in his medical career he joined the practice of George Turnavine Budd (there's a fictionalized account of his time in Plymouth in *THE STARK MUNRO LETTERS*, published in 1895); the house where they lived now has a blue plaque, unveiled at a ceremony this month <www.tinyurl.com/y7y7xaf7>.
484. Pam Verrey has reported "Yukoko no Moriarty" (an on-line manga by Takeuchi Ryousuke and Miyoshi Hikaru) at <www.tinyurl.com/y82n2426>; that's "Moriarty the Patriot" and it's in English, exploring his motivation in becoming the greatest criminal Britain has ever seen.
485. "Sherlocko the Monk" (the Gus Mager comic strip with 430 episodes in newspapers from 1910 to 1925) is now completely available on-line at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/ycqxhc39>; our thanks to Howard Ostrom for reporting the new archive. It should be noted that Groucho Marx said in *THE GROUCHO PHILE: AN ILLUSTRATED LIFE* (1976) said that he took his name from a character in Mager's comic strip.
486. Acorn <www.acornonline.com> offers a nice variety of Sherlockiana, including a Mystery Lover T-shirt (\$19.95) and sweatshirt (\$29.95) with a colorful (mustached) Sherlockian caricature.
487. An intriguing development in the bookstore business is Amazon's decision to sell books in bricks-and-mortar stores: their ninth and tenth stores opened in Bellevue, Wash., and San Jose, Calif., in August, and Bill Seil has forwarded a story in the *Seattle Times* <www.tinyurl.com/y8pkhebg> that offers a look at what customers can (and cannot) expect. Amazon stores stock only books that have received high ratings from Amazon reviewers, have room for about 3,700 titles, and are small enough to fit into city neighborhoods.
488. I've noted in past issues that members of The Baker Street Irregulars have acted in films, and we can add Michael J. Quigley, who has appeared as an extra in two films. The rest of the list: Elmer Davis, H. C. Potter, and Evan Wilson (as themselves); Curtis Armstrong, Paul Singleton, and Richard Shull

(as actors); Al Gregory, Jerry Margolin, John Pffor, Donald Pollock, Mary Ellen Rich, Philip Shreffler, and Bill Ward (as extras), and Jean Upton (as voices). If you'd like to include children of members of the BSI, add Peter Ashman's daughter Jenny (as an actor). Additions to the list are of course welcome.

489. Sep 17 #7 THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: ELIMINATE THE IMPOSSIBLE (London: MX Publishing, 2017) is a welcome addition to the series of anthologies edited by David Marcum for those who believe that short stories are the best way to revisit Holmes and Watson; there are two volumes (459/566 pp., \$44.95 each), with 48 stories (and poems and scripts) by old hands and new who have responded to the editor's request for "apparently supernatural investigations, but with rational solutions," and they are nicely done indeed. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
490. Also from MX: Dan Andriacco's QUEEN CITY CORPSE (2017; 233 pp., \$14.95) is the latest in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, who are in Cincinnati for a mystery convention and encounter mystery and murder, and a surprising solution; it's a lively story, and Andriacco maintains an (often-Sherlockian) blog at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>. Wendy Heyman-Marsaw's MEMOIRS FROM MRS. HUDSON'S KITCHEN (2017; 119 pp., \$11.95) offers a collection of columns from Canadian Holmes, expanded and edited by JoAnn and Mark Alberstat; it's a nice cookbook, with commentary on life in Victorian times in London and the English countryside. Rob Nunn's THE CRIMINAL MASTERMIND OF BAKER STREET (2017; 336 pp., \$18.95) answers the question "what if Sherlock Holmes had turned to crime instead of detection?" by retelling the Canonical cases from a new viewpoint; his "Interesting Though Elementary" blog is at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5hw4hn>.
491. More from MX: Arthur Hall's THE DEMON OF THE DUSK (2017; 204 pp., \$12.95); Holmes and Watson are in Warwickshire, investigating a curse, a ghost, and a series of vicious murders. And Hall's THE ONE HUNDRED PER CENT SOCIETY (2017; 141 pp., \$10.95) pits Holmes and Watson against another vicious murderer, in a complicated and bizarre mystery. Mark Mower's THE BAKER STREET CASE-FILES (2017; 173 pp., \$14.95) is a collection of short stories, some new and most reprinted from MX BOOK anthologies. John Sutton's IN UNHALLOWED REST (2017; 137 pp., \$10.95) has Holmes and Watson in Suffolk in pursuit of vampires. And Richard K. Tobin's CANON OF THE NON-SACRED WRITINGS (2017; 120 pp., \$9.95) is a collection of five new stories told in non-Watsonian style. John Sutton's IN UNHALLOWED REST (2017; 137 pp., \$10.95) has Holmes and Watson in Suffolk in pursuit of vampires. Janina Woods' MYCROFT HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE DESERT WIND (2017; 303 pp., \$16.95) sends Mycroft, his fellow Secret Service agent Victoria Trevor, and Dr. Watson in pursuit of the villains who have kidnapped Sherlock Holmes, in a case that involves supernatural forces.
492. Hugh Hefner died on Sept. 27. When he founded Playboy magazine in 1953 he launched an empire that affected both the publishing world and a sexual revolution that reflected, and was reflected by, his own life-style. Those who bought the first issue of Playboy to see the photograph of a nude Marilyn Monroe were surprised to find that the lead fiction in the issue was an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four". "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Copper Beeches" followed in the next two issues, and Playboy continued with a variety of Sherlockiana, including delightful cartoons by Gahan Wilson and Nicholas Meyer's "The West End Horror", and Laura Lyons was Playmate of the Month in the Feb. 1976 issue. None of this was accidental: Hugh Hefner was an enthusiast, and once explained that his trademark pipe smoking was inspired by Holmes.
493. Sep 17 #8 If you would like to have breaking news about Sherlockian theatrics, Howard Ostrom offers just that (and a great deal more) at his <www.twitter.com/HowardOstrom>. Note his link at the left to his alphabetic index of actors who have performed as Sherlock Holmes (more than 3,500 at the moment, and the list is growing).
494. F. Andrew Leslie's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is running at the Port Tobacco Playhouse in La Plata, Md., through Oct. 8 <www.ptplayers.com>.
495. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at A Local Barn in Durango, Colo., through Oct. 14 <www.merelyplayers.us>; and at the Oregon Cabaret Theater in Ashland, Ore., through Nov. 5; their web-site's at <www.oregoncabaret.com>. And it's due at the Live Theatre Workshop in Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 5-Nov. 11 <www.livetheatreworkshop.org>; and at the Jacklin Arts and Cultural Center in Post Falls, Idaho, Oct. 12 through 15 <www.cdsummertheatre.com>. Also at the Royal Off-the-Square Theatre in Brownstown, Ind., Oct. 13-21 <www.jcct.org>; the Fringe Club in Hong Kong, Oct. 18-26 <www.hkfringeclub.com>; and Murry's Dinner Playhouse in Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 31-Nov. 25 <www.murrysdp.com>.
496. "The Hound of the Baskervilles: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" (a new "hiking play" written by Lauren LaCasse) is being performed by Arts in the Open at the Chautauqua Picnic Shelter in Boulder, Colo., through Oct. 29; web-site at <www.chautauqua.com>.
497. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be performed at the Mundelein High School in Mundelein, Ill., Oct. 6-8; the web-site's at <www.kirkplayers.org>.
498. Christophe Delort's dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes et la mystère de la vallée de Boscombe" will be performed at the Théâtre du Gymnase Marie-Bell in Paris, Oct. 12-Jan. 27 <www.billetreduc.com/194998/evt.htm>.
499. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Xenia Area Community Theatre in Xenia, Ohio, Oct. 27-Nov. 5 <www.xeniaact.org>.
500. Ken Ludwig's play "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Ivoryton Playhouse in Ivoryton, Conn., Nov. 1-19; the web-site is at <www.ivorytonplayhouse.org>. And at Cheriton Village Hall in Cheriton (near Alresford), Hants., Nov. 15-18 <www.thecheritonplayers.org.uk>; and at the Ajax Community Theatre in Ajax, Ont., Nov. 16-26; their web-site is at <www.ajaxcommunitytheatre.com>. Also at the Triple Locks Theater in Coshocton, Ohio, Dec. 1-16 <www.footlightplayers.com>; and at the AFD Theatre in Arlington, Mass., Dec. 8-17 <www.afdtheatre.org>.
501. "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Eric Coble and based on the graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulwood), has been scheduled at the Alaska Fine Arts Academy in Eagle River, Alas., from Nov. 10 to 18 <www.akfinearts.org>.
502. Oct 17 #1 Transformative Works and Cultures is an international on-line journal that publishes articles about popular media, fan communities, and transformative works; v. 23 (2017) <www.tinyurl.com/y9hkz4ml> is titled "Sherlock Holmes, Fandom, Sherlockiana and the Great Game" and was edited by Betsy Rosenblatt and Roberta Pearson. There's cover artwork by Laurie Fraser Manifold, and an excellent mix of material by and about Sherlockians, and it's all available to read on-line or download without charge.
503. Alexis Barquin notes a two-minute British Pathé clip of Eille Norwood putting on a disguise in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" at the Princes Theatre in London (1923) <www.tinyurl.com/y8xf9h7>; this seems to be the earliest known film/video from a Sherlockian play.
504. Kazuo Ishiguro has been awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature. He is best known for his novels THE REMAINS OF THE DAY, NEVER LET ME GO, and THE BURIED GIANT, and Sara Danius, the permanent secretary of the Swedish Academy, said that "If you mix Jane Austen and Franz Kafka then you have Kazuo Ishiguro in a nutshell, but you have to add a little bit of Marcel Proust into the mix." In an interview published in the N.Y. Times Sunday Book Review in 2015 <www.tinyurl.com/y7ux8nlm>, Ishiguro said that he discovered the Sherlock Holmes stories as a young boy in the local library, and that "I not only read obsessively about Holmes and Watson, I started to behave like them. I'd go to school and say things like: 'Pray, be

- seated' or 'That is most singular.' People at the time just put this down to my being Japanese." Mattias Boström has posted about Ishiguro at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/y9mbuzd8>.
505. Local conservationists are campaigning against a developer's plans to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel in Lyndhurst, Hants., and build flats and affordable homes on the site. The campaigners are citing evidence that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle helped design the 1912 redevelopment of the building as a hotel; local historian Brice Stratford reports that he has discovered Conan Doyle's design sketches in the Richard Lancelyn Green archive in Portsmouth, and he has written a detailed and illustrated report that's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y97zljpc>. The Victorian Society is supporting the campaign <www.tinyurl.com/yb5yvzve>, and their web-site has a link for those who wish to comments on the developer's planning application.
506. A SINGULAR COUNTRYSIDE, edited by Nicholas Utechin, David Jones, and Heather Owen (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London; 2017, 40 pp., £7.50), is the handbook for the Society's expedition to Norfolk; the Society's fortunate to have so many Canonical locales to visit on its expeditions, and to have so much scholarship available from its members. It's available at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
507. This may not qualify as Sherlockian theater, but: "it's ecdysiological, my dear Watson." "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Scarlet Buttcheek" is a new, fully-scripted striptease that stars Nasty Canasta (Sherlock Holmes) and Sapphire Jones (Dr. Watson), for one night only, at the Bell House in Brooklyn on Nov. 3 <www.thebellhouseny.com>. "When you have eliminated the clothing, whatever remains, however improbable, must be naked."
508. Oct 17 #2 The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and the contents of the fall issue include Evelyn Herzog's "The Second Case of the Speckled Band" (originally published in Albertinum, spring 1966, when the ASH were founded at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven); the Muse is published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230), and a copy of the summer issue costs \$5.00 postpaid.
509. Don Hobbs, assisting the search for information about deceased members of The Baker Street Irregulars, is still seeking exact death dates for Irving M. Fenton, Robert G. Parker, and Frank F. Reilly. Nothing was found in The Baker Street Journal, the Social Security Death Index, and www.legacy.com; if any anyone knew, or has personal information about, any of the missing three, please get in touch with Don <221b@verizon.net>.
510. There's always something new to be discovered, such as "Gli aristocratici e Sherlock Holmes" (published in Il Corriere del Ragazzi, Mar. 1975); it's an Italian comic strip that was written by Alfredo Castelli and drawn by Ferdinando Tacconi, and it's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ybssps5z>.
511. Copies of THE SHERLOCK HOLMES HEXALOGY have been shipped by the Thornwillow Press; it's a collection of Conan Doyle's six favorite stories, introduced by Randall Stock, letterpress-printed and hand-bound, and it's available in different bindings, ranging from paper (\$85) to half-leather (\$575), and a few individual stories still are available in even fancier bindings. More information at <www.thornwillow.com/sherlock-holmes-hexalogy-1275>.
512. The Marco Navos Studio offers a colorful collection of paper dolls showing 12 characters from the Canon (plus Conan Doyle) <www.tinyurl.com/y93jvxe3>; they are available in two sizes. The company also offers a variety of miniature figurines <www.tinyurl.com/y9vlvmch>, Sherlockian and others.
513. Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has published aerial footage of a luxurious hidden mansion called Villa Sellgren, located on an island near the border with Finland, and allegedly used by Vladimir Putin as a holiday retreat <www.tinyurl.com/y6vtwr5d>. The [London] Sun had a colorfully-illustrated story about the mansion <www.tinyurl.com/yb8kpj4o>, which has a Sherlockian connection, as the site of filming for an episode of the series that starred Vasilii Livanov and Vitali Solomin.
514. Flicker Alley promoted its restored (and most complete) Blu-ray edition of "The Lost World" (1925) with its first animated video contest, encouraging fans to submit short animated videos inspired by the company's titles; the winner was Shane Fleming, whose "The Tyrant Lizard" can be seen at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yalh587>.
515. H. H. Holmes is definitely dead. That was the alias used by Herman Webster Mudgett, who murdered a series of young women in the World's Fair Hotel in Chicago, and by Anthony Boucher, who was an author, critic, and early member of The Baker Street Irregulars (Jun 17 #1). The History Channel series "American Ripper" pursued a rumor that Mudgett escaped from prison and execution and ended with the exhumation of Mudgett's grave; forensic tests determined that the body was indeed Mudgett's.
516. Oct 17 #3 Alexander Orlov has noted an interesting on-line archive: the National Center for Biotechnology Information, which has 16 data-bases with citations for ["sherlock holmes"] and 13 for ["conan doyle"] <www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>. Anyone interested in Sherlockian and Doylean medicine will find much of interest: just one of the data-bases, PubMed Central <www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc> yields 623 hits for ["sherlock holmes"] and 461 for ["conan doyle"].
517. "The most beautiful diamond in the world" is Christie's description of the 163.41-carat diamond that will go to auction in London on Nov. 14; it was cut from a 404-carat rough diamond found in Angola last year, and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/yb4g7yjl>. There's nothing Sherlockian about the diamond, but it's certainly more spectacular than the Mazarin Stone (a 77-carat yellow diamond that's part of the Iranian crown jewels, and was never owned by Cardinal Mazarin).
518. If you would like to know more about Mazarin, and the diamonds that actually were in his collection, you can consult the catalog for Christie's auction of "magnificent jewels" <www.tinyurl.com/ycwzntl8>; the auction will include the "Grand Mazarin" (a light-pink 19.07-carat brilliant-cut diamond) that's so magnificent that it's listed as "estimate on request."
519. Breaking news: the Russians used Sherlock Holmes to try to interfere with the U.S. election. It was a CNN Exclusive this month, illustrated with an image of Vasilii Livanov and Vitali Solomin <www.tinyurl.com/yavs6mjr>.
520. It was H. R. F. Keating, in SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MAN AND HIS WORLD (1979), who explained that the modern Belgian masters whose pictures entirely absorbed Sherlock Holmes (in THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES) were the members of the XX Group. James Ensor was one of them, and Christie's has on-line an interesting "5 minutes with... A book of poems illustrated by James Ensor" <www.tinyurl.com/y984kka8>.
521. Greg Ruby has reported at The Fourth Garrideb web-site that a portrait of Arthur Conan Doyle appears on a new Scottish £10 note, and offers colorful images and a detailed description <www.tinyurl.com/ybp8jbhk>. It's a fantasy note created by Gabris Matej, and Greg includes a link to Matej's online shop, in case you'd like to buy one of the notes (\$8.90 postpaid).
522. Steampunk, first mentioned in this newsletter in 1996, is a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes, but there is real science in its history. Brandy Schillace explores that history in her CLOCKWORK FUTURES (New York: Pegasus, 2017; 300 pp., \$28.95); the subtitle is "the science of steampunk and the reinvention of the modern world" and (of course) she has a chapter on "The Science of Sherlock".

523. The University of Chicago Press has announced the Great Chicago Book Sale, and one of the books is Conan Doyle's 'DANGEROUS WORK': DIARY OF AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE (Jul 12 #4); if you don't have this excellent book already, here is a chance to get it at a discount: \$13.00 for the cloth edition (instead of \$35.00) and \$69.00 for the limited, numbered, and cloth slip-cased edition (instead of \$289.00). Go to <www.bit.ly/UCPSale>, search for [dangerous work] and use the keycode AD1647 to get the discount.

524. Oct 17 #4 Bert Wolder spotted an interesting item scheduled for auction at Sotheby's in London on Sept. 26 in The Vivien Leigh Collection: a photograph of David Niven, with a deerstalker (and bow and arrow) jumping into a swimming pool; They were close friends, and she was godmother to his oldest son. Estimated at £300-£500, it sold for £4,000, and you still may be able to see the photograph at <www.tinyurl.com/yd42jma9>.
525. The Folio Society and House of Illustration have announced the 2018 Book Illustration Competition to illustrate THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yb5ss7ez>. The winner will receive a £5,000 commission to illustrate the book and design the binding, and the deadline for entries in the competition is Jan. 17. The selected long-list will be available at the House of Illustration web-site from Feb. 1, and members of the public will be able to vote for their favorite entry; the winner, however, will be chosen by a panel of six judges.
526. Breaking news: the Russians used Sherlock Holmes to try to interfere with the U.S. election. Okay: it was fake news (as you might have concluded if you observed the mention of "Sherlock Go"); someone had fun with the hoax, presumably inspired by the real CNN story about how the Russians used the game Pokémon Go to meddle in the election <www.tinyurl.com/y8vux3at>.
527. And (speaking of Pokémon), the company's game "Detective Pikachu" has the title character in Sherlockian costume (Feb 16 #2), and a live-action film is reported to be scheduled to begin shooting in London next year. You can see a nine-minute trailer for the game at <www.tinyurl.com/y9y5bk2v>.
528. The British Film Institute has launched a new Filmography data-base covering more than 100 years of feature films, starting in 1911, with details on more than 10,000 films and more than 250,000 cast and crew. Details available at <www.bfi.org.uk/archive-collections/bfi-filmography>, and there are answers to all sorts of questions, such as: who are the most featured characters in British feature films? Sherlock Holmes ranks third (24 films); James Bond and Queen Victoria are tied for first (25 films), and Miss Moneypenny ranks fourth (17 films). Old Mother Riley and the Prince of Wales are tied for seventh (13 films). And who was Old Mother Riley? Look her up at Wikipedia (I had to).
529. Steve Duke died on Sept. 21. A co-founder of The Sherlock Holmes Society of Victoria (aka The Elementary Victorians), he produced occasional cryptic messages he called "The Dark Rumours of Moriarty"; his article on "ACD in Melbourne" appeared in the 2012 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and for many years he had great fun out there down under.
530. Dennis Pearce was the runner-up in the "detective" category in the BulwerLytton Fiction Contest in 2010: "As Holmes, who had a nose for danger, quietly fingered the bloody knife and eyed the various body parts strewn along the dark, deserted highway, he placed his ear to the ground and, with his heart in his throat, silently mouthed to his companion, 'Arm yourself, Watson, there is an evil hand afoot ahead.'" This has been in this newsletter before, but incorrectly, and the full version is better. The motto of the contest is "Where www means 'Wretched Writers Welcome'" and their web-site is at <www.bulwer-lytton.com>.

531. Oct 17 #5 EVERY CLUE COUNTS: A CHILDREN'S SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY (2017; 210 pp., \$9.99 at Amazon and elsewhere) was written and published by the 5th-grade class of Downes Elementary School in Newark, Del., and it is nicely done indeed; the 5th-graders know their audience, and obviously have had great fun creating an interesting book.
532. Terry Downes died on Oct. 6. A British middle-weight boxing champion who was nicknamed the Paddington Express, he became wealthy outside the ring by investing in legal betting shops, and occasionally acted in films, including "A Study in Terror" (1965), in which he played Chunky.
533. The next 221B Con will be held in Atlanta, Apr. 13-15, 2018; it's promoted as "a fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes" and (by all accounts) it is never boring <www.221bcon.com>.
534. The Napoleon of Crime now has a grave marker. Jerry Klinger, in an article in the San Diego Jewish World (Oct. 8) <www.tinyurl.com/y9lmxvm6>, reports that he has installed a grave marker at Highgate Cemetery in honor of Adam Worth (the master criminal who was known as the Napoleon of Crime well before Prof. Moriarty).
535. An addition to the list of members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films (Sep 17 #6): Sonia Fetherson (as an extra). And to the list of children of members of the BSI: James Utechin (as an actor).
536. Joe Ide's IQ won an Anthony award (for best first novel) at Bouchercon this month. His protagonist is Isaiah Quintabe, "a street-smart Sherlock" (according to one reviewer) who lives in Long Beach, Calif., and the book has many Canonical echoes. Lenny Picker interviewed Ide for Publishers Weekly last year <www.tinyurl.com/ydhmsope>.
537. Bouchercon was held in Toronto, and the schedule included a nice Sherlockian panel moderated by Angela Misri; there also were opportunities to visit the "Pop Sherlock!" exhibition and the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library. Congratulations to Peggy Perdue on her promotion; she now is senior department head of the special collections department.
538. The next Bouchercons will be in Saint Petersburg ("Crime in the Sunshine") Sept. 13-16, 2018; in Dallas ("Denim, Diamonds and Death") on Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2019; and in Sacramento ("Where Murder is a Capitol Crime"), Oct. 15-18, 2020. Bouchercon is the largest gathering of mystery authors and readers, and there's (almost) always a Sherlockian panel.
539. David Marcum, author of the upcoming THE PAPERS OF SOLAR PONS (Sep 17 #4), blogs at "A Seventeen Step Problem...." and has a nicely illustrated post about August Derleth and Solar Pons <www.tinyurl.com/yczkxleq>.
540. Donald A. Yates ("The Greek Interpreter") died on Oct. 17. He was a professor of Romance Languages at Michigan State University, where he resurrected The Greek Interpreters, and was an expert on the writings of Jorge Luis Borges. Don contributed to our literature with scholarship, poetry, and pastiche, and was the founding chair of The John H. Watson Society; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.

541. Oct 17 #6 Reedsy (which describes itself as "a full ecosystem for authors and publishing professionals") has celebrated the 125th anniversary of the publication of THE ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES by asking a dozen professional book designers to create new book covers for each of the stories in the collection. The designs are thoroughly attractive, and you can see them in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/yb2vwgw3>. Alas: there are no plans (at the moment) to publish books with the colorful covers.
542. Arthur Conan Doyle, J. M. Barrie, and P. G. Wodehouse were members of the Authors XI Cricket Club, founded in 1892 and dissolved in 1912. The club was revived in 2012 and has an active schedule, a page at Facebook, and a web-site <www.authorscricketclub.com>.
543. Anatoly Mikhailovich Eliseev has created some colorful and striking illustrations for Sherlock Holmes stories, apparently not published, but Howard Ostrom notes that you can see them on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yajeztnu>.

544. Harry Rountree's original artwork for one of his illustrations in "The Lost World" in The Strand Magazine was offered at Heritage Auctions this month, and you can see at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ydgbhzc> how spectacular the artwork in inkwash and gouache is, compared to what readers saw in the Strand; it sold for \$5,500 (including the buyer's premium)
545. "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999-2001), a British animated television series that ran for two seasons on CITV and Fox Kids, still has its fans, including Patrick Morris, who posted The Arcanist web-site on Oct. 6 <www.tinyurl.com/y9rnyhnb> about "how a forgotten cartoon predicted the future." And he makes some interesting points.
546. Just in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year will be on-line soon at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.
547. Mattias Boström didn't have room for all of his research in the 571 pages of his FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (Apr 17 #4), and he's now posting all sorts of additional material at his Facebook page, which is well worth visiting <www.facebook.com/fromholmestosherslock>.
548. Roy Dotrice died on Oct. 16. He had a long career as an actor, noted for appearing as John Aubrey on stage in the one-man show "Brief Lives" (which opened in 1967 and ran for 1,700 performances), and as Hallyne the Pyromancer in two episodes of the television series "Game of Thrones" in 2012. He also played Douglas Stone in the BBC-2 dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The Case of Lady Sannox" (1968), Simon Carne in "The Duchess of Wilshire's Diamonds" in the ITV television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971), and Conan Doyle in the television film "Young Harry Houdini" (1987).
549. The fall meeting of The Sons of the Copper Beeches in Philadelphia was enjoyed by all, including the toastmaster, who for the first time in the history of the society was able to call the meeting to order by saying "ladies and gentlemen" (all of the six traditional toasts were given by ladies, and all the ladies on hand, having attended their first meeting, are on their way to becoming full members of the Sons).

550. Oct 17 #7 The traditional forecast for the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York in January is considerably shorter than usual, because details are not yet available. But they will be, on-line early in November, at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>. The long weekend will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 10 with the ASH Wednesday dinner, and end on Sunday, Jan. 14 with the ASH brunch, and the schedule may or may not include some surprises.
551. Paste magazine has reported <www.tinyurl.com/y7bw5l2y> that next year Dark Horse will publish a graphic-novel adaptation of Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald"; visit the web-site to see the cover artwork.
552. Conan Doyle sailed from Sydney to Auckland in 1920 on the SS Maheno while on his Spiritualist tour of Australia and New Zealand; in 1935 it was sold for scrap, caught in a cyclone, and beached on Fraser Island, off the coast of Queensland. It's still there, and Bill Barnes has reported that Google Maps has panoramic views of the wreck today <www.tinyurl.com/yd5wls57>.
553. Pattie Tierney's "Mystery Jewelry and Gifts" www.pattietierney.etsy.com offers imaginative items, Sherlockian and otherwise, including a new "Sherlock Noir" charm bracelet.
554. Ted Bergman ("The Honourable Philip Green") died on Oct. 22. He was one of the founders of The Solitary Cyclists of Sweden, and an energetic member of The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden. Ted was a dedicated Sherlockian, an expert bibliographer, and proud of his miniature recreation of 221B Baker Street, and he was awarded his Investiture by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1978.
555. Judge Richard A. Posner retired in September after more than three decades on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago; you can read the Chicago Tribune's story at <www.tinyurl.com/y7g47vrj>, and Adam Liptak's "Exit Interview with Richard Posner, Judicial Provocateur" in the N.Y. Times at <www.tinyurl.com/y79aln54>. Posner wrote the Court of Appeals decision in Leslie S. Klinger v. Conan Doyle Estate, Ltd., in 2014, ruling that copyright protects only characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still under copyright, and awarded Les more than \$30,000 to cover his legal fees; you can read the decisions at <www.free-sherlock.com>. Posner also reviewed THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES for The New Republic in 2004 and offered a decidedly unfavorable opinion of the scholarship and pseudo-scholarship detailed in Les' annotations.
556. Bill Barnes has reported from Australia that Sherlock Holmes, a six-year-old chestnut gelding (Sep 17 #6), is continuing to race in Australia: he was the favorite in a field of 12 on Oct. 11, but finished fourth, and came in fourth again in a race on Oct. 18. His lifetime earnings are AU\$42,296.
557. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Elephant & Castle Pub and Restaurant in Seattle on Oct. 25, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, welcomed by members of The Sound of the Baskervilles. Our next meetings will be on May 23 in Salt Lake City and on Nov. 7 in Indianapolis.

558. Oct 17 #8 Robert Guillaume died on Oct. 24. He earned a Tony nomination in a production of "Guys and Dolls" in 1977, and went on to win an Emmy for best supporting actor as the butler Benson DuBois in the television series "Soap"; he then won a second Emmy as best actor in the spinoff "Benson" and in an episode of the second series he was seen briefly in Sherlockian costume impersonating a Scotland Yard inspector.
559. Denny Dobry has kindly reported a 3-minute Sherlockian segment in the History Channel's series "Pawn Stars": in the episode "Chum's Risky Business" (Cot. 23, 2017), Chuck Kovacic (founder of The Baker Street Builders) sold Rick Harrison a gasogene.
560. Theatrics: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new play by Thomas Moore) is running at the King's Arms in Salford, Manchester, through Nov. 25; their web-site's at <www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk>.
561. Christophe Delort's dramatization of "Sherlock Holmes et la mystère de la vallée de Boscombe" is running at the Théâtre du Gymnase Marie-Bell in Paris through Jan. 27 <www.billetreduc.com/194998/evt.htm>; there's a trailer trailer at <www.vimeo.com/233013768>.
562. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Lion's Club in Key Largo, Fla., Nov. 1-11 <www.thekeyplayers.org>; and at the Frank Venables Theatre in Oliver, B.C., Nov. 2-4; their web-site is at <www.venablestheatre.ca>. It's also at the Otter Valley Playhouse in Tillsonburg, Ont., Nov. 2-12; <www.theatreitillsonburg.com>; and at the nTelos Theatre in Staunton, Va., Nov. 3-12 <www.shenanarts.org>.
563. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Reuben Cordova Theatre in Beverly Hills, Calif., Nov. 16-Dec. 17 <www.theatre40.org>; and the Ottawa Little Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., May 2-19 <www.ottawalittletheatre.com>.
564. "Sherlock Holmes and the Christmas Goose" (by Duke Ernsberger and V. Cate) will be performed at the Greenville Little Theatre in Greenville, S.C., on Dec. 7-17 <www.greenvillelittletheatre.org>.
565. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed in the script-in-hand play-reading series at the Westport Country Playhouse in Westport, Conn., on Dec. 11 <www.westportplayhouse.org>.
566. Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Ashton Community Center in Ashton, Iowa, Nov. 2-5; web-site at <www.offoffboardwayinc.com>. And at the Manoa Valley Theatre in Honolulu, Hawaii, Jan. 11-28, 2018 <www.manoavalleytheatre.com>; then at the Long Wharf in New Haven, Conn., Feb. 28-Mar. 25, 2018 <www.longwharf.org>.

567. David MacGregor's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" is due at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Mar. 29-May 6, 2018 <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.
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568. Nov 17 #1 Sherlock Holmes' 164th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 12, with the traditional festivities in New York. The (very) long weekend runs from Wednesday through Sunday, and information about registering for events and making hotel reservations is available on-line at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>; space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering. There's more information at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>; Scott also has a "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" at <www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips>.
569. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address. The Watson Fund benefits from the auction at the Saturday reception during the birthday festivities; if you would like to see what a truly spectacular auction looks like, watch the video at <www.tinyurl.com/ybh7xtlz>.
570. "The Sherlock Holmes Collection of Daniel Posnansky" will be at auction at Profiles in History on Dec. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/y9gtlru3>, and the catalog offers a splendid look at what a truly dedicated collector can achieve; the web-site offers Glen Miranker's delightful tribute to Dan, and you can (and should) download the Catalog PDF, which is fully illustrated.
571. Another addition to the list of members of The Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films (Sep 17 #6 and Oct 17 #5): Michael W. McClure. And his children (Michael W. McClure II, Jennifer McClure, Christine McClure, and Elizabeth McClure) as extras.
572. Fans of the musical "Baker Street" (1964) will enjoy Stephen Bowie's story in Broadway World, Oct. 31 <www.tinyurl.com/y9bntawt> about the N.Y. Public Library's acquisition of the scripts of Jerome Coopersmith; there's a long interview with Coopersmith about the musical in the story, with some interesting background on how the musical was created and staged.
573. Some of Conan Doyle's correspondence was written and signed by secretaries, and the secretaries put their initials after the signature; an example of this went to auction at Bubba Kuyper in the Netherlands on Nov. 22, estimated at €150-€250 <www.tinyurl.com/y7rm9d8h>. It sold for €200.
574. Mary Cameron Shore's collection of Sherlockiana was donated to the University of North Carolina in 1978, and items from the collection were exhibited there in 1980 (Jan 80 #1). Its existence is not well-known, but the collection is interesting indeed, and Mattias Boström has reported Christy Edina Richards' comprehensive assessment of the collection, submitted for her M.S. degree in Library Science in 2003 <www.tinyurl.com/yae7ovhw>.
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575. Nov 17 #2 Willmer A. Hoerr's "The Case of the Archetypical Agent" (published in The Baker Street Journal in Mar. 1968) discussed Ignatius Paul Pollaky, widely known as "Paddington Pollaky" (and mentioned in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience"). Pollaky was a private detective active in London well before Sherlock Holmes, and Hoerr concluded that "because he was very close-mouthed and lacked a literary friend, we shall probably never know just what his exploits were." Bryan Kesselman's 'PADDINGTON' POLLAKY: PRIVATE DETECTIVE (Stroud: History Press, 2015; 239 pp., \$19.95) corrects that oversight; sub-titled "the mysterious life and times of the real Sherlock Holmes," the book is a full-scale biography of Pollaky, who was no Holmes, but nevertheless a colorful character indeed.
576. More kidvid: Lenny Picker's daughter has reported a (brief) appearance of a wax figure of Sherlock Holmes in the "Headhunters" episode of the Disney Channel's animated series "Gravity Falls" <www.tinyurl.com/ycd2r8kl>.
577. Nancy Friday died on Nov. 5. Famous as the author of MY SECRET GARDEN (a survey of women's sexual fantasies that was published in 1973 and sold more than two million copies), she went on to write FORBIDDEN FLOWERS: MORE WOMEN'S SEXUAL FANTASIES (1975) in which she said that "Another fantasy is one where I seduce Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes at 22B [sic] Baker Street. In it, I am his twenty-year-old niece. Dr. Watson (Nigel Bruce) is amazed his aloof pal Holmes finally fell for someone."
578. There's a Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour of Edinburgh, led by Toby Virgo (in Sherlockian costume); you can also book a private tour, and there's a colorful web-site at <www.realsherlockholmes.com>.
579. John Hillerman died on Nov. 9. He had a long career as an actor on stage and screen and television, and is best known for his role as Higgins in the long-running television series "Magnum, P.I."; he also played Dr. Watson in the television film "Hands of a Murderer" on CBS-TV in 1990.
580. Howard Ostrom has discovered a spectacular one-of-a-kind portrait doll that the Russian artist Natalia Zatova created of Borislav Brondokov as Inspector Lestrade in the Russian television series that starred Vasilii Livanov as Sherlock Holmes. You can see the doll in full color at her web-site at <www.natalydolls.com/lestrade.php#>, and more of her dolls are on display at her web-site. Inspector Lestrade is in a private collection and not for sale, but she accepts commissions (costing 200,000 rubles and up, depending on the complexity of the costume).
581. There's now an official trailer for "Sherlock Gnomes" (the animated movie featuring the world's greatest ornamental detective), scheduled for release on Mar. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/ybnvawee>.
582. Further to the report (Sep 03 #2) on Britain's endangered bitterns (it was in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that Stapleton suggested that "I should not be surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last of the bitterns"), a story in The Guardian (Nov. 8) www.tinyurl.com/ymdalksx (kindly noted by Phil Attwell) reports that there now is a record high of bitterns in Britain: the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds recently counted 164 bitterns at 71 wetlands sites in Britain.
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583. Nov 17 #3 Who knew? The Langham Hotel, site of the fateful dinner where Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde were commissioned to write stories for Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, is haunted, according to a report in the South China Morning Post <www.tinyurl.com/y8lyfyj6>, and one of them is the Langham (which of course also is mentioned in three of the Canonical stories). A Google search for [langham hotel room 333] yields some interesting reports (and videos).
584. Brian Pugh spotted an interesting painting at auction at Bonhams in London on Nov. 21, estimated at £1,000-£1,500: the painting, by Edward George Handel Lucas, shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's writing shed and grave at Crowborough in August 1930 <www.tinyurl.com/y7oq5okt>; it sold for £1,750.
585. Dudley Simpson died on Nov. 4. He learned to play the piano in his childhood in Australia and went on to become an accomplished conductor in Australia and Britain; he then moved into composing for television, including "Doctor Who" and is credited for the incidental music in that series' Victorian (and almost Sherlockian) episode "The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977).

586. Sherlock Holmes has been wrapped. Again. Charity Hands On London wrapped the statue of Sherlock Holmes outside the Baker Street underground station in a bright red coat on Nov. 5, as part of a campaign asking people to donate their old coats, which go to those in need <www.wrapuplondon.org.uk>; there's a brief glimpse of the Sherlock Holmes statue in a "Wrap Up London" video at www.tinyurl.com/y7wrnfvw
587. Vicki Delany's *BODY ON BAKER STREET* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2017; 297 pp., \$26.99) is the second in her pleasantly-cozy "Sherlock Holmes bookshop mystery" series that stars Gemma Doyle (the proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (the proprietor of the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room) investigating the murder (in the bookshop) of an author of Sherlockian pastiches. The next title in the series will be *THE CAT OF THE BASKERVILLES*.
588. The oldest surviving Sherlockian television broadcast is "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (broadcast by NBC-TV in 1949); Holmes; you can watch it at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ydabnb3w> and see Alan Napier as Holmes, years before he became famous as Alfred the butler in the long-running "Batman" series in the 1960s. "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs" was broadcast by NBC on its experimental station in New York in 1937; with Louis Hector as Holmes, and it would be nice indeed if someone discovers a recording of the show.
589. Sherlock Holmes needs to move. Again. The Edinburgh City Council is considering remodelling Picardy Place, and is asking for suggestions from the public about a new site for the statue of Sherlock Holmes erected in 1991 as a memorial to Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/y865v36c>.
590. Massimo Polidaro's "Notes on a Strange World" column in November/December issue of the *Skeptical Inquirer* is devoted to "The Conspiracy of Fairies" and the possibility, suggested by Fiona Maher in the August issue of *Fortean Times*, that the Cottingley photographs actually were faked by Elsie Wright's father Arthur.
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591. Nov 17 #4 Michael Ross, who some years ago reported the PLAYMOBIL figurine of Sherlock Holmes (May 94 #2) has now reported Richard Unglik's *SHERLOCK HOLMES ET LE CHIEN DES BASKERVILLES* (Bruxelles: Casterman, 2013; 96 pp., €18.50 at the publisher's web-site) <tinyurl.com/y9jnluhg>; une interprétation playmobilesque du roman de Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The book's also available in Spanish as *EL PERRO DE LOS BASKERVILLE* (2015) and in English as *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES*, 2016).
592. The second title in Elizabeth Eulberg's "Shelby Holmes" series is *THE GREAT SHELBY HOLMES MEETS HER MATCH* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017; 230 pp., \$16.99) and it is an excellent sequel to *THE GREAT SHELBY HOLMES* (Jun 17 #2). The series is written for young readers and is nicely Sherlockian, and the new story's told well. The author's web-site is at <www.elizabetheulberg.com>.
593. *THE LOST PRINCESS OF OZ* was the eleventh of Frank L. Baum's books about Oz, and the autumn issue of *The Baum Bugle* (the quarterly journal of the International Wizard of Oz Club) has Scott Cummings' discussion of some of the early reviews of the book, offering a nice example or two of how one hears of Sherlock everywhere: the *Chicago Post* (Dec. 7, 1913) noted that "There are few characters in fiction that one could wish to go on forever-- Sherlock Holmes is one," adding that "certainly the inhabitants of Oz are among that few elect," and the *Louisville Courier Journal* (Dec. 13, 1917) reviewer said that, "it is the wonderful wizard, who like Sherlock Holmes, never made a mistake, who finds Ozma in a most surprising situation." The Club's colorful web-site is at <www.ozclub.org>.
594. Keith Barron died on Nov. 15. A British actor, he appeared in many television series, and he was best known for his role as David Pearce in "Duty Free" in the 1980s. Barron also played Rob Ferguson in Granada's "The Last Vampyre" (1993).
595. It's often said, by people who believe that "The Blue Carbuncle" could not have involved a garnet, that there are no blue garnets. That certainly was true when Sherlock Holmes solved that mystery, but no longer: in 1998 there was a discovery of a blue garnet in the Bekily mines in Madagascar. But it is only sometimes blue: it's a color-change garnet, a mixture of pyrope and spessartine that's grayish or greenish blue in daylight, changing to purple in incandescent light, and brilliant blue in LED light.
596. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Early LSD Guru" was the headline on a story on Oct. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/ybk2p3vb> at the Reason Foundation's Hit & Run blog about the late Gerald Heard, described as a mystic whose syncretic spiritual path eventually led him to mescaline and LSD." You can read more about at a web-site <www.geraldheard.com>, including the books that he wrote (as H. F. Heard) about Mr. Mycroft. The "Hit & Run" blog includes a link to Boris Karloff's "The Sting of Death" (1955), which was adapted from Heard's *A TASTE FOR HONEY*.
597. Laurie R. King's web-site <www.laurierking.com> now has a new and helpful chronology of her books and stories about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes; click on [Books] and then on [Russell and Holmes] to read what she has to say about what her fans call the Kanon, and scroll down to find the "Internal chronology" for the series.
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598. Nov 17 #5 Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Speckled Band") that "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession." Stephen Bates' *THE POISONER: LIFE AND CRIMES OF VICTORIAN ENGLAND'S MOST NOTORIOUS DOCTOR* (New York: Overlook Press, 2014; 342 pp., \$17.95) is a detailed biography of William Palmer; Bates notes that Holmes was flattering to Palmer, "since he lost his nerve and was never at the head of his profession, even as a poisoner."
599. Rosemary Herbert's interview with Jeremy Brett, published in *The Armchair Detective* (fall 1985) has been excerpted as "Jeremy Brett: The Real Sherlock Holmes" in the "Murder & Mayhem" blog, and it's a nice reminder of the Granada series <www.tinyurl.com/y8dz8vbe>.
600. Martin Arbagi reports that registration is now open for the "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" gathering on Mar. 9-10 in Dayton, Ohio; details at the web-site of The Agra Treasurers <www.agratreasurers.net/holmes-doyle-friends.html>.
601. *THE USUAL SANTAS*, edited by Peter Lovesey (New York: Soho Crime, 2017; 400 pp., \$19.95) is subtitled "a Collection of Soho Crime Christmas Capers" and is a nicely seasonal anthology of stories by interesting authors, including Cara Black's "Cabaret aux Assassins" about Irene Adler's daughter Neige and Irene's exploits in Paris).
602. David Small died on July 21. He had a long career in England and Australia as an actor, director, and radio presenter, and played Conan Doyle in Australia in Cernth Fox's "The Real Sherlock Holmes" in 2004 and 2005.
603. "Fake News" is the title of an exhibition at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford, W. Yorks. <www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk>, running through Jan. 28; the *Bradford Telegraph & Argus* noted (Nov. 16) that "Fake News" is nothing new, and that the exhibits range from the existence of bat creatures living on the Moon in 1835 to modern-day politics (both British and American), and the historic material on display includes the Cottingley Fairies hoax <www.tinyurl.com/ybgktedw>.
604. Plan well ahead: the Wessex Press' "From Gillette to Brett V" conference is scheduled for Oct. 5-7 in Bloomington, Ind. <www.wessexpress.com>.
605. Ross K. Foad (who maintains the web-site "No Place Like Holmes") has begun a new web-series "The History of Spirituality" (adapted from Conan Doyle's *THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM*); the first episode ("The Story of Swedenborg") is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ybfo8xtg>, with more episodes to follow.

606. Aaron Cowan was in the news in Britain in October: he was jailed for five years after admitting six charges of fraud, five of them while posing as a police officer. He used the persona of Insp. Greg Lestrade at mobile phone shops and bookmakers across Kent, purporting to investigate stolen iPhones and fake bank notes, and was reported to the police when a business manager became suspicious of the name. At his trial he claimed he was the victim of a vicious gang who made him pose as an Inspector Lestrade, but was the judge declared him the most "unconvincing witness he had ever heard, with crocodile tears, a self-pitying confidence trickster."
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607. Nov 17 #6 Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Waco Civic Theatre in Waco, Tex., Dec. 1-10 <www.wacovictheatre.org>; and at the Theatre Baton Rouge in Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 19-Feb. 4 <www.theatrebr.org>; and at the Clear Space Theatre in Rehobeth Beach, Del., Jan. 26-Feb. 11; their web-site's at <www.clearspacetheatre.org>. The play's also due at the Springhouse Theatre in Smyrna, Tenn., Apr. 13-29 <www.springhousetheater.com>; at Greensburg Civic Theatre in Greensburg, Pa., May 4-6 <gctheatre.org>; at Shea's 710 Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y. May 10-13 <www.sheas.org>.
608. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater in Milwaukee, Wis., through Dec. 17 <www.milwaukeeep.com>. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Ross Valley Players in Ross, Calif., through Dec. 10; their web-site's at <www.rossvalleyplayers.com>. It's also due at the Love Street Playhouse in Woodland, Wash., Dec. 1-17 <www.lovestreetplayhouse.com>. Also at the Glendale Center Theatre in Glendale, Calif., Oct. 11-Nov. 17, 2018 <www.glendalecentertheatre.com>.
609. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London, Dec. 6 through Jan. 13 <www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk>.
610. Admirers of Charles Dickens know that his last novel THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD was left unfinished when Dickens died in 1870, and that a minor industry sprang up as people offered their solutions to the mystery. One of those people was T. P. James of Brattleboro, Vt., author of PART SECOND OF THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD BY THE SPIRIT-PEN OF CHARLES DICKENS THROUGH A MEDIUM, published in 1873. The Rutland Herald had a long story about James on Nov. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/yalfya95>, noting that Conan Doyle, in the December 1927 issue of The Bookman, discussed the book and concluded that it read like "Dickens gone flat." But there's bit more to the story, not reported in the Rutland Herald: when Conan Doyle reprinted the article in THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN in 1930, he added an account of his later conversation with Dickens about the book. Conan Doyle asked Dickens, "was that American who finished EDWIN DROOD inspired?" And Dickens answered, "Not by me." The conversation, needless to say, was through a medium, at a sitting with Florizel von Reuter and his mother; Dickens had more to say about the book, of course, and THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN is well worth pursuing (Conan Doyle also discusses Harry Houdini, and ghosts, and much more); the full text is not available on-line, but reprints are available at reasonable prices at eBay and Amazon and elsewhere.
611. You can see Nils Nordberg and the late Ted Bergman as they were fifty years ago, in a television quiz show that had Norwegian and Swedish experts competing for 10,000 kroner (rather than \$64,000); the program is available at the Norwegian NRK web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y743cqyz>. A tip of the hat to Howard Ostrom, who spotted the video.
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612. Dec 17 #1 There's still time to plan for (at least some of) the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York, but: alas, the reception at the Yale Club on Saturday is sold out, so: no additional reservations are available, by mail or e-mail or at the door. Go to www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html for information on other events. Scott Monty has an excellent web-site at <www.bsiweekend.com>, and weekend tips at <www.ihose.co/bsi2017tips>.
613. Congratulations to Helen Dorey, who was included in the Queen's New Year's honours list; Helen was appointed MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for her services to national heritage, and will receive her award at Buckingham Palace on Feb. 8.
614. The conference of The Reichenbach Irregulars ("Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited") held in Switzerland last year was followed by an excursion to Florence (since that's where Holmes traveled after the battle at the Reichenbach), and you can read colorful accounts of what went on at <www.221b.ch/Past_Events_Beyond_e.html>. And there will be another chance to enjoy a Sherlockian visit to Switzerland: another conference is planned for spring/early summer 2019 in the Bernese Oberland, celebrating the society's 30th anniversary, followed by an excursion to the Splügen Pass (where Baron von Gruner murdered his wife).
615. The Sherlock Holmes Collection of Daniel Posnansky went to auction on Dec. 19 at Profiles in History, and the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog has a delightful podcast by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder about Dan and his collection <www.tinyurl.com/yba35wfs>. The fully-illustrated auction catalog is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y9gtlr3>. There were some real treasures, as well as some great bargains, at the auction, and Sherlockian collectors bidding on the floor and by phone and Internet.
616. For the Sake of the Trust: Denny Dobry is continuing to sell Sherlockiana at eBay for the benefit of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (his seller ID is wiggins221b); starting on Dec. 31 he will be offering a complete set (42 titles) of the late John Ruyle's hand-printed (and amusing) Sherlock Loams parodies.
617. CBS has not announced a date for the start of the sixth season of "Elementary" (likely early next year), but the network has commissioned eight more episodes, bringing the count to 21 (previous seasons had 24 episodes). According to the Hollywood Reporter <www.tinyurl.com/ycpl43eq>, "Elementary" is CBS' lowest-performing returning scripted series, averaging a 1.2 rating among adults 18-49, and 7.7 million viewers last season; lucrative syndication and international appeal have kept the series in production.
618. The Stepping Stones School has issued "An Invitation to Undershaw" for anyone who wants to attend their celebration of Arthur Conan Doyle, whose former home now is part of the school. "Enjoy a tour of Undershaw," they suggest, "visit our exhibition at the local museum, enjoy a round of golf on the course he played, hear from experts about his life, retrace his local walks, and enjoy a performance of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'." Their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/ya2h67zb>; details will be available soon.
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619. Dec 17 #2 An interesting Conan Doyle letter went to auction on Dec. 8, at Lawrences Auctioneers in Britain <www.tinyurl.com/yc9xvnsx>; it is well worth your attention: written to Miss Ruby Paulson in 1893, it offers a splendid demonstration of his sense of humor, as well as a hint at what the readers of The Strand Magazine would discover in the December issue. Estimated at £700-£900, the letter sold for £7,400 (not including the buyer's premium and value-added tax); you can read Scott Monty's discussion of the letter at <www.tinyurl.com/ycbzl9c>.
620. One of the added features on the Blu-ray version of "The Lost World" (1925) is images of the sheet music that accompanied the film (with words by Harry B. Smith and music by Rudolf Friml); Flicker Alley kindly has made images available <www.tinyurl.com/y9ha79mt>, and happily will sell you the Blu-ray for \$34.95 <www.tinyurl.com/ycy4wd5s>.

621. Robert A. Moss ("The Case of Fairdale Hobbs") died on Nov. 27. Bob was a professor of chemistry at Rutgers University, and wrote several books and more than 400 scientific articles, including a discussion of Holmes' knowledge of chemistry. He also was a member of The Scandalous Bohemians and The Red-Headed League of Jersey, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.
622. Howard Ostrom reports an imaginative and attractive "interactive annotated" Russian edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES from Labyrinth; there is a nice video about the book at <www.tinyurl.com/y8uhzyzb>.
623. "The most beautiful diamond in the world" was sold at auction at Christie's in November (Oct 17 #3), for CHF 33,500,000 (including the buyer's premium) [that's about \$34,194,141]; not bad for a 163.41-carat diamond. The "Grand Mazarin" light-pink 19.07-carat brilliant-cut diamond sold for a mere CHF 14,375,000 [that's about \$14,671,362].
624. Daedalus Books offers serious discounts, such as the miniature replica of HOW WATSON LEARNED THE TRICK (Sep 14 #3), published at \$25.00 and now discounted to \$3.98 <www.tinyurl.com/ycroq3sf>; the story was handwritten by Conan Doyle in 1922 in the miniature book now found in the Queen's Dolls' House Library at Windsor Castle.
625. Reported: Hans Zimmer has a new album "Live in Prague" (available in DVD/ Blu-ray/2CD/4LP formats) recorded during this year's world-wide tour with a band, orchestra, and choir; there are 15 tracks from his film scores, one of them "Discombobulate" from "Sherlock Holmes" (the 2009 Robert Downey Jr. film).
626. "Asian-American Actresses Describe Struggle of Constantly Being Typecast as Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an amusing video spotted by Jennie Paton; it was posted by The Onion to YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y854f79n>.
627. The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, in Dallas, is preparing to celebrate its 50th anniversary, and members of the society have created A GRIMM HOLMES, an anthology of imaginative fairy-tale pastiches; it's a 265-page e-book, nicely available without charge at <www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc>, offering 11 pastiches and the fairy tales on which they're based.

628. Dec 17 #3 Donald B. Izbán's SELECTED RHYMING CANONICAL TOASTS presents a nice tour of the alphabet, with 49 poetic toasts, all inspired by the Canon or by eminent Sherlockians. The 81-page book was illustrated by Edward Letwekno and published this year by George A. Vanderburgh; \$16.00 postpaid, and you can ask George <gav@markdalecable.com> for information on how you can order and pay for it.
629. Tania Henzell has designed a new Sherlock Holmes Tartan that's available in a wide variety of clothing and other merchandise from Tattimole in Edinburgh <www.tinyurl.com/ybu9xx9c>. She's the step-great-great-granddaughter of Arthur Conan Doyle (and the great-granddaughter of Dame Jean's husband Lord Geoffrey Bromet).
630. The October/November issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist offers detailed reviews of Sinclair McKay's THE MILE END MURDER: THE CASE THAT CONAN DOYLE COULDN'T SOLVE and Christopher Sandford's THE MAN WHO WOULD BE SHERLOCK: THE REAL LIFE ADVENTURES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, and much more about Jack the Ripper; you should contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information on how you can subscribe.
631. Barry Hapner ("Inspector Forrester") died on Nov. 13. He was an educator, and for a time owned and operated a pipe shop in St. Louis, where he sponsored pipe-smoking contests with Sherlockian themes. Barry was a member of The Noble Bachelors, and a founding member of The Jefferson Hopes, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.
632. Jack Goldstein and Jimmy Russell's 101 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES (Andrew UK, 2013) is available as a Kindle e-book, and as an audiobook, at Amazon and elsewhere. And Jack Goldstein and Isabella Reese's 101 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (2014), available as a Kindle e-book. Both from Andrews UK, and while they may not be of real interest for knowledgeable fans, they could be fun for beginners. Amazon's "look inside" feature gives you a chance to sample these and many other books.
633. Marisa Babjak's "Femmes Fatales" <www.femmesfatalesgifts.com> offers a wide variety of mystery-related merchandise; use the Search button at upper left to find Sherlockiana, and you can get a 20% discount if you mention the magic word [scuttlebutt].
634. Collectors of Sherlockian games may have "Cluedo? The Great Detective Game" (1949), which had a caricature of Holmes and a bloodhound on the cover but was otherwise non-Sherlockian. There's now a new edition of the board game tied to the BBC's "Sherlock" series, available in the U.S. and the U.K. (at about \$50.00 and up), and there appear to be two variants, with or without the "U" on the cover in red.
635. Robert Serman, the president of the Haslemere Society, has retired after 21 years of service to the society; founded as the Haslemere Commons and Footpath Preservation Society in 1884, the society's present goal is to "protect and enhance" the town, and it was involved in the campaign to restore Undershaw as the Stepping Stones School.

636. Dec 17 #4 John Nieminski's THE HOUNDS OF THE BASKERVILLE (SIC): A HISTORY OF CHICAGO'S SENIOR SHERLOCKIAN SCION SOCIETY 1943-1983 offered a delightful look at what the world of scion societies was like in the early days, and at how much fun the early Sherlockians had. Donald J. Terras has expanded the history and brought it up to date in a second edition; the 130-page book's available (\$40.00 postpaid) from Don (2535 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201).
637. There's a Kickstarter campaign to fund "The Death Defying" (a four-episode comic book starring Houdini and Conan Doyle), and you can view a colorful sample at <www.tinyurl.com/y75glahr>.
638. There were, in olden times, all sorts of Sherlockian tobaccos and smoking accessories, for the delight of the many Sherlockians who smoked; there are far fewer Sherlockians who smoke now, but it's likely that there are some who vape, and while it seems to have taken a while, there now is a Sherlock Ohms e-liquid that comes in three flavors (Bohemian Scandal, Yellow Face, and Noble Bachelor) available from a company in England that claims it is "serious about juice" <www.sherlockohms.biz>. You can find a number of reviews at YouTube, including this one <www.tinyurl.com/yanfgvtb>.
639. The modern Strand Magazine is an interesting successor to the original, and has issued a colorful calendar for 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/y9md42sp>. I've seen only one other Sherlockian calendar for 2018: Sherlock (tied in to the BBC series), available at Amazon and elsewhere.
640. Harold Billings died on Nov. 29. He spent fifty years at the University of Texas' libraries, rising from catalogueur to Director of General Libraries, and was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2006, for his article on "The Materia Medica of Sherlock Holmes".
641. Anthony Harvey died on Nov. 23. He was a highly regarded director, winning a Directors Guild of America award for "The Lion in Winter" (1968); he also directed the George C. Scott film "They Might Be Giants" (1971). A place to stay when you're in or near Highland, Ill.: The Tibbett's House <www.thetibbettshouse.com>, the "bed, breakfast, and books" establishment that boasts a 221B Baker Street room; there was an article about the establishment, and its owners, in the RiverBender <www.tinyurl.com/y76d8g4h> on Dec. 11.

642. Norman Wilkinson, an artist and a patient of Arthur Conan Doyle when he was in practice in Southsea, was recommended by Conan Doyle to Jerome K. Jerome (the editor of the *Idler* and *To-Day: A Weekly Magazine*) and produced illustrations for those magazines and for the *Illustrated London News*, going on to become a celebrated maritime painter. James Taylor's *DAZZLE: DISGUISE AND DISRUPTION IN WAR AND ART* (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2016; 128 pp., \$36.00) is the colorfully illustrated story of Wilkinson's invention of a camouflage scheme for ships during World War One that was intended to confuse the submarine officers who needed to know a target's location and course before firing torpedoes; it was an ingenious creation, echoed today in modern art and clothing.
643. Dec 17 #5 The BBC reported on Dec. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/yb9vovl8> that the New Forest National Park Authority has rejected a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Oct 17 #1). The campaign to protect the hotel cited evidence that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912, and NPA planners said the Conan Doyle link "raised its heritage value." The planners also said that there was "no guarantee the development would help cater for local needs." There is a video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y7asjd8z> that shows the sad condition of the hotel earlier this year.
644. Bob Byrne's web-site at <www.solarpons.com> offers his "Solar Pons Gazette" and his "Baker Street Essays", and now "The Brownstone of Nero Wolfe" (for fans of Bob's number-one detective), all nicely done.
645. Reported: discussion of Conan Doyle and the Cottingley Fairy Hoax in Kevin Young's *BUNK: THE RISE OF HOAXES, HUMBUG, PLAGIARISTS, PHONIES, POST-FACTS, AND FAKE NEWS* (Graywolf, 2017; 560 pp., \$30.00); favorably reviewed by Michael Dirda in the *Washington Post* <www.tinyurl.com/y74renq2>.
646. Baker Street Burgers has just opened in Rockford, Ill.; the restaurant gets its name from owners Randy and Betsy Baker, and from the address of Sherlock Holmes, and it has a page at Facebook.
647. Jennie Paton has reported that "Sherlock Gnomes" (due in theaters on Mar. 23) already has action toys available to Burger King; there's a commercial at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yadshjyf>. You can collect Holmes and Watson and four others, and they're also available at eBay.
648. Reported: Andreas Jacke's *MIND GAMES: ÜBER LITERARISCHE, PSYCHOANALYTISCHE UND GENDERTHEORETISCHE SENDEINHALTE* BY A. C. DOYLE UND DER BBC-SERIE SHERLOCK (Wiesbaden: Springer, 2017; 228 pp., €24.99. All in German, but there is a video in English in English at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yavc3jhb>.
649. It's an old question, asked in this newsletter in 1981: what was the first in-flight movie? The answer, noted by Patrick Robertson (*MOVIE FACTS AND FEATS*, 1980, p. 219), is "The Lost World"; the film was shown during an Imperial Airways flight from London to the Continent in April 1925. There's much more about the event on the Internet now, needless to say; Alexis Barquin has an excellent entry on "The Lost World Above the World" at The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/y7loorlb>.
650. But (as so often is the case) there's more to the story: the first film to be shown in-flight appears to have been "Howdy Chicago!" (screened aloft in 1921 during Chicago's Pageant of Progress); you can read about that at the Smithsonian's Air & Space Magazine web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7w4yeev>.
651. Reported: Juli Berwald's *SPINELESS: THE SCIENCE OF JELLYFISH AND THE ART OF GROWING A BACKBONE* (New York: Riverhead, 2017; 352 pp., \$27.00); "a thoroughly delightful and entertaining new book," according to Brian Castner's review at WAMU-FM on Nov. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/yd8dxstc>; you can listen to Ari Shapiro's interview with her at <www.tinyurl.com/y7835763>. The book has a passing mention of "The Lion's Mane" as perhaps the greatest testimony to the celebrity of jellyfish.
652. Dec 17 #6 Howard Ostrom has reported that Riga (in Latvia) will hold its seventh annual celebration of the birthday of Sherlock Holmes on Jan. 6, with a new mini-museum that honors the two most popular actors who have played Holmes (Vasiliy Livanov and Benedict Cumberbatch), a costume parade, and many other events. There's a page at Facebook [Sherlock holmes birthday riga], a web-site <www.holmes.lv> (in Latvian, Russian, and English), and a City Council press release <www.tinyurl.com/yche86l7x> (in Latvian and Russian); Google Translate can be of assistance. It's not surprising that the city honors Sherlock Holmes: Riga's Jauniela Street doubled for Baker Street in the Livanov television series.
653. There's a persistent (although unconfirmed) story that in 1925, when Conan Doyle traveled to Paris to preside over the International Spiritualist Congress, he also went to Lyon to visit Edmond Locard's forensic laboratory, which included a display of photographs of criminals. Conan Doyle looked at one of them and said "That's Jules, my old chauffeur." And Locard replied that the photograph showed the notorious criminal Jules Bonnot. It is true that Bonnot did work as a chauffeur in London for a few months in 1910, and then returned to France to lead the notorious Bonnot Gang. There is much more about Bonnot in John Merriman's interesting *BALLAD OF THE ANARCHIST BANDITS* (New York: Nation Books, 2017; 326 pp., \$28.00).
654. Reported: *WATSON & HOLMES: DIARIOS DEL 221B*, a Spanish board game designed by Jesús Torres Castro for Ludanova and issued in 2015; there's a video (in Spanish) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yakevzbz>. There appears to be a version in English (*WATSON & HOLMES: FROM THE DIARIES OF 221B*) from Asmodee in 2016.
655. "221b in 360" is the title of the impressive photographic tour of the full-scale recreation of the sitting-room in Chuck Kovacic's home in Los Angeles <www.221bbakerstreetla.com>.
656. The Hollywood Reporter has noted <www.tinyurl.com/yaafnosp> that HBO Asia, celebrating its 25th anniversary, has partnered with Hulu Japan to produce "Miss Sherlock" (its first Japanese-language drama); it will be an eight-part one-hour series that will air next April, and there's a trailer online at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y89ljd8p>.
657. Out of Print <www.outofprintclothing.com> offers a wide variety of literary clothing in various genres, including Sherlock Holmes T-shirts and socks.
658. The China Daily reported (Dec. 19) on Amazon China's ranking of the best-selling books in China this year: the most popular paid e-books on Kindle were *THE THREE-BODY* trilogy (by science-fiction writer Liu Cixin), *MIRACLES OF THE NAMIYA GENERAL STORE* (by Keigo Higashina), and *THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES* <www.tinyurl.com/y8mdfc09>.
659. David Marcum's *THE PAPERS OF SOLAR PONS* (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2017; 249 pp., \$29.95) is a welcome collection of new stories that feature Solar Pons (the delightful homage to Sherlock Holmes created by August Derleth). The opening story has an artful premise: Solar Pons and Dr. Parker are in pursuit of a culprit who has stolen the late Dr. Watson's tin box from a vault at Cox & Co., and the collection is a fine tribute to Solar Pons.
660. Dec 17 #7 The Petaluma Radio Players <www.petalumaradioplayers> have produced three "Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" from scripts by Vince Staddon. The first show ("The Obliging Cadaver") is available in two parts in the podcasts at their web-site, and the others will be soon. They did three more shows as "Holmes for the Holidays" in December, and they'll up at the web-site eventually.
661. John Walton's *THE LEGENDARY DETECTIVE: THE PRIVATE EYE IN FACT AND FICTION* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015; 232 pp., \$25.00) focuses much more on fact than fiction, with an interesting examination of the history of the profession, including the Pinkertons and with more

- attention paid to William J. Burns and his agency. Burns and Pinkerton were bitter rivals, and Burns went on to serve as J. Edgar Hoover's predecessor as Director of the Justice Department's Bureau of Investigation, and then became enmeshed in the Teapot Dome Scandal.
662. Sherlockians will recall that a Pinkerton agent, James McParland, was the inspiration for Birdy Edwards in "The Valley of Fear" (which is mentioned in Walton's book). Burns visited Conan Doyle at Windlesham in 1913 and was at the pier to welcome Conan Doyle and his family to New York in 1914. It should be noted that the Pinkerton and Burns agencies are now both part of the international company Securitas AB.
663. New and decorative: Espionage Cosmetics <www.espionagecosmetics.com> offers "nerd makeup" that includes "Baker Street" glow-in-the-dark nail wraps (22 nail wraps and a mini nail file for \$11.00).
664. Sony Pictures has announced Nov. 9, 2018, as the release date for their new film "Holmes & Watson" (the comedy starring Will Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson); the cast also includes Ralph Fiennes, Rebecca Hall, Hugh Laurie, and Kelly Macdonald. Even farther ahead (and of course quite likely to change) is the release of the live-action film "Detective Pikachu" (starring Ryan Reynolds) on May 10, 2019.
665. How many actors have played the role of Sherlock Holmes? More than 3,700. That is the current count in Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>, and of course the count will continue to increase with new productions, and new discoveries of old productions. Howard has compiled many other interesting data-bases, which can be found at <www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html>.
666. The Deutsche-Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft holds a convention in Germany every two years, and next year's SherloCON will be in Saarbrücken on May 11-13 <www.sherlocon.info>.
667. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India; the current issue (with 148 colorful pages) includes David Marcum's "Sherlock Holmes and John Atkinson Grimshaw: The Perfect Holmesian Book Covers" (examining the atmospheric artwork used on many Sherlockian book covers).
668. Howard Ostrom's "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson Tour Spain, or Two Knights-Errant to the Rescue" (discussing the many aspects of Sherlockiana found in Spain), and much more <www.tinyurl.com/ycqjbf7d>.
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669. Dec 17 #8 Plan well ahead: Denny Dobry has for many years welcomed those who want to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street in Reading, Pa. <www.facebook.com/221binReading>, and he will be holding an open house on May 20, 2018; one of the nicest things about his sitting-room is that it's hands-on, and full of interesting artifacts. You can contact him <dendobry@ptd.net> for more information about the event, and to enquire about alternative dates.
670. I don't recall that anyone has ever created Sherlockian poker chips before, but Nick Thorn has launched a Kickstarter campaign for a set of three buttons for the dealer, big blind, and small blind, with images of Moriarty, Holmes, and Watson <www.tinyurl.com/ya4xo6wr>.
671. "'Detective Conan' will be on hiatus for the foreseeable future so that I can recover from illness and rest up," Gosho Aoyama announced this month. The comic features a genius teenage detective who shrinks into a young boy after being forced to ingest an experimental toxin, takes on the alias Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Conan Doyle) and continues to solve mysteries. The comic has been running weekly in a Japanese magazine since 1984 and has been translated into more than two dozen languages (the English version is titled "Case Closed") and has been adapted into an animated series that began in 1996, feature films, video games, and live-action specials.
672. Theatrics: the British Comedy Company will perform Peter Wear's parody of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the St. Michael and All Angels Church in Chiswick, London, Jan. 5 <www.britishcomedycompany.co.uk>.
673. Hive and Tall Tales will present "Sherlock--A Play" at the Junction Theatre in Dubai (in the United Arab Emirates), Jan. 18-20 (apparently a new play) <www.thejunctiondubai.com>. If you go to Dubai, you can also pay a visit to the Sherlock Holmes English Pub at the Arabian Courtyard Hotel and Spa <www.sherlockholmespub.net>.
674. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at Theatre Baton Rouge in Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 19-Feb. 4 <www.theatrebr.com>. Also at the 710 Theatre in Buffalo, N.Y., May 10-13 <www.sheas.org>; and at the Pride Art Center in Phoenix, Ariz., on May 11-12 <www.mptheatreco.com>; and at the Little Theatre of Walla Walla in Walla Walla, Wash., June 1-17 <www.ltwww.org>; and the Bard to Broadway Theatre in Qualicum Beach, B.C., July 3-Aug. 19 <www.b2btheatre.com>; and the Timber Lake Playhouse in Mount Carroll, Ill., July 19-26 <www.timberlakeplayhouse.org>. And the Taproot Theatre in Seattle, Wash., Sept. 12-Oct. 13 <www.taproottheatre.org>.
675. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, Mass., Apr. 5-22, and their web-site is at <www.greaterbostonstage.org>. And at the Peninsula Players Theater in Fish Creek, Wis., July 4-22 <www.peninsulaplayers.com>, and at the Crede Repertory Theatre in Creede, Colo., July 27-Sept. 15 <www.creederep.org> [it's totally coincidental, but Crede features in the first episode of the new Netflix western series "Godless"].

Jan 18 #1

1. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 164th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 10 to Jan. 14. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Annie Moore's, and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's).
2. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Martin Edwards, the award-winning mystery author and commentator on mysteries, and The Babes of Baker Street's "Daintiest Scream on the Moor Charity Ball" featured the unveiling of a "Cake Boss" cake in the shape of a bust of Sherlock Holmes (to be featured on an upcoming episode of the TV series. Friday's William Gillette Luncheon included a performance by the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street, plus Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan WHIMSEY Award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year, to M.E. Rich. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.
3. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Roy Pilot proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to Patricia Izbán as The Woman. The annual-dinner agenda included toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented this year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Shannon Carlisle ("Beacons of the Future!"), Dean Clark ("Watson's Journal"), Denny Dobry ("A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room"), Jeffrey Hatcher ("The Five Orange Pips"), Maria Fleischhack ("Rache"), Anastasia Klimchynskaya ("The Old Russian Woman"), Rebecca Romney ("That Gap on That Second Shelf"), Candace Lewis ("A Little Art Jargon"), Nick Martorelli ("Seventeen Steps"), and Al Shaw ("Sir Hugo Baskerville"). Mike also made a Two-Shilling Award to John Linsenmeyer.
4. An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Social Bar & Grill, and some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21.

5. On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured a performance of "The Bayswater Boarding House" (adapted by dramatized by Bill Hyder from a parody written by Headon Hill).
6. The BSI's afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining, and Susan Bailey was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check and an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2017. And the John H. Watson Fund's raffle prize was (jewelry from "Charles Augustus Milverton") created by Maggie Schpak, and the auction attracted enthusiastic bidders.

7. Jan 18 #2 The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street) and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Long Room.
8. A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 11, 2019.
9. I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; you'll find more detailed reports on the goings-on in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSI appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$41.95 (to the U.S.) or \$55.00 (elsewhere); you can pay by check sent to the BSI (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), or by credit card or PayPal at the BSI web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSI, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.
10. "Far from Baker Street, Ardent Holmes Fans Celebrate His Birthday" was the headline on Corey Kilgannon's story about the birthday festivities in the N.Y. Times on Jan. 15; the story ran on-line a day earlier as "It's Elementary: Sherlockians Take Manhattan" <www.tinyurl.com/yamqwwa3>. Kilgannon, with John McDonough and Malachy McCourt, host "Talk Back--New York, We and Thee Edition" (a two-hour weekly series broadcast by WBAI-FM), and on Jan. 17 they discussed the celebration and interviewed Lyndsay Faye; the program is available on-line at <www.wbai.org/program.php?program=186>, and the 23-minute segment begins at 01:00.
11. There also is Scott Monty's well-illustrated account of some of the events at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/y9nlqo9n>; remarkable for having been posted, as Scott notes, by someone who missed his first BSI annual dinner since 1995.
12. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) his 2017 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 have received Irregular Shillings).
13. TRENCHES: THE WAR SERVICE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series (2017; 274 pp., \$39.95), is edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg, offers a facsimile of the fourteen surviving pages of the manuscript of "His Last Bow", an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the world in which Sherlock Holmes lived when he was involved in the case. More information about the book, including the table of contents and one of the essays, can be found at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.
14. Also from the BSI is MOBILE HOLMES: TRANSPORTATION IN THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON (2017; 270 pp., \$21.95), edited by Walter Jaffee; it's a delightful anthology of essays, from traveling on foot (Catherine Cooke's "What Do You Say to a Ramble Through London?") to traveling aloft (Chuck Winge's "Sherlock Holmes and Aeroplanes").
15. Jan 18 #3 Jim French died on Dec. 21. He had a long career in radio, as a DJ and an on-air personality, going on to write and produce nearly 500 original shows (including "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes") for his Imagination Theater. Details on his broadcasts are availat <www.old-time.com/otrlogs2>; see "Jim French Shows", "The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", and "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes").
16. "221b in 360" (an impressive photographic slide-show tour of the full-scale recreation of the sitting-room Chuck Kovacic has created in his home in Los Angeles) <www.221bbakerstreetla.com>, was reported last month, and Alexander Orlov has now noted a truly spectacular 3D interactive tour that's also engineered for those who use virtual reality <www.tinyurl.com/y8hrzt7t>.
17. The sixth issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published this month, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with articles that include Phillip G. Bergem's discussion of "221B: What and Where?", Peter Calamai's "Conan Doyle's Neologisms: A Debate", and much more. The issue costs \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).
18. Paramount has collaborated with Variety: The Children's Charity to create a new pin featuring Sherlock Gnomes for its current Gold Heart Campaign; the pins will be available at movie theaters in return for a \$3.00 donation, and there's a list of participating theaters at <www.usvariety.org/gold-hearts>.
19. Randall Stock has kindly forwarded a report from The Bookseller (Jan. 4) on plans by John Murray to celebrate the publisher's 250th anniversary with a new book DEAR MR. MURRAY: LETTERS TO A GENTLEMEN PUBLISHER, due in October. One of the letters, from Adrian Conan Doyle, discusses challenging Harold Nicolson to a duel for insulting Adrian's father; it is likely that Adrian was angry about Nicolson's review of John Dickson Carr's biography THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE in the Daily Telegraph and Morning Post (Feb. 4, 1949). "It is an irksome task," Nicolson wrote, "to write the biography of a man whose children are loyal and alive. It is not easy to depict with sincerity the career of someone whose fame was wholly out of proportion to his intrinsic merits." Nicolson's review has much more to say about Conan Doyle, and Adrian would not have been pleased by any of it.
20. The next "Sherlocked USA" convention will be held in Los Angeles on May 25-27; it is organized in association with Hartswood Films (the company that produces the BBC series "Sherlock") <www.sherlockedusa.com>, and many series stars attend the Sherlocked conventions. Tickets cost from \$145 (standard) to \$2995 (VIP Package).
21. The Baker Street Journal's Christmas Annual for 2017 was written by Sonia Fetherston and Julie McKuras, who tell grand stories about "Helene Yuhasova: The Poetess Laureate of the Baker Street Irregulars"; the Christmas Annuals are available only as part of subscriptions to the BSI, but they can be found at eBay. You can also hear an excellent podcast about "Helene Yuhasova: Woman of Mystery" at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/ya5frbbo>, where they share some of those stories.

22. Jan 18 #4 "Mystery as Pub Named after Sherlock Holmes writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is magically rebranded the 'JK Rowling'" read the headline in the Daily Mail on Jan. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/y77g56cz>. Nicholson Pubs (the owner of the establishment in Edinburgh) declined comment on the change, but the Daily Mail suggested that the renaming was an elaborate stunt for Hogmanay (that's the Scottish celebration of the New Year). The Edinburgh Evening News <www.tinyurl.com/y8xndd77> had more information: the change is merely temporary, and is tied to Message from the Skies, a visual art installation that was designed to showcase streets and buildings that have inspired some of the city's finest authors, and included an app that allowed residents and visitors to explore the city while they read a story written by Val McDermid. The event ended on Jan. 25.

23. The Unemployed Philosophers Guild <www.philosophersguild.com> continues to offer imaginative Sherlockiana, including an attractive Sherlock Holmes Mug that comes with instructions <www.tinyurl.com/ycmrqspr>.
 24. One of the more imaginative celebrations of the holiday season is "The Bloo Sparkly" (The Blue Carbuncle, as Told by Animated GIF), created by someone nommed "whorl" and posted at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog in 2011 <www.tinyurl.com/ydd2oks3> and again in 2017.
 25. Samantha Wolov notes Elvis Costello's "Dr. Watson, I Presume" (released in 2010 on his album "National Ransom"), which may or may not be Sherlockian; you can sample the song (and read the lyrics) at www.tinyurl.com/y8h9vuy7 and decide for yourselves.
 26. "I hear of Sherlock everywhere," including on the label of Whodunnit? Popcorn (Specially Blended for Mystery Lovers), available from Acorn <www.acornonline.com/XB3412.html> (\$14.95 for 30 oz.). "The sound of crunchy popcorn adds to the suspense!" they explain. Acorn also offers a Star Wars Popcorn Maker and Rogue One Darth Vader Lightsaber Handheld Immersion Blenders for fans of that other series.
 27. The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have issued a CD that contains a complete run of The Serpentine Muse from April 1975 through winter 2015; it's indexed and text-searchable, and costs \$15.00 postpaid <www.ash-nyc.com>.
 28. Roger Heyworth has designed SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CARD GAME for Gibson and Sons Ltd.; there was a first edition in 1991, a second edition in 2014, and (apparently) a third edition (in a black box) in 2017, available at Amazon in the U.K. and the U.S.
 29. Paul Annett died on Dec. 11. He was writer, producer, and director in film and television; his directing credits include work on series that include "Poldark" (1975-1976) and "EastEnders" (1998-2009), and three of the early stories in Granada's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes": "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Solitary Cyclist" (1984), and "The Copper Beeches" (1985).
 30. When in Dallas: Daniel J. Darrouzet will appear in an "author talk" about his STORIES FROM THE TIN BOX: UNTOLD ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2015) at 6:30 pm on Feb. 8 at the Preston Royal Branch Library in Dallas; directions at <www.tinyurl.com/y88cf6j3>.
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31. Jan 18 #5 More and more Sherlockian societies are taking advantage of digitization to create on-line archives of their newsletters and other publications. The Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark is the latest to do this, and all issues of their "Sherlockiana" from 1956 through 2016 are available at their web-site <www.sherlockholmesklubben.dk>; there's a link at the top of their opening page.
 32. The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, a nice homage to Sherlockians by John Morgan Wilson, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
 33. "Pop star Rita Ora was channeling detective Sherlock Holmes when she wore a bizarre Burberry shorts combo to the BBC Radio 1 Teen Awards in October. The only mystery to solve is why anyone let her leave the house like this." She provided one of the "worst fashion frights" in 2017, according to the Daily Mail (Dec. 29. You can see all of their picks at <www.tinyurl.com/y9t6ep8c>.
 34. The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where, and it offers an interesting look at how many society events are being held hither and yon. You should contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> to have a meeting or conference listed. The calendar also is available on Twitter as @SianCalendar.
 35. Terence Marsh died on Jan. 9. He began his film career as a draughtsman at Pinewood Studios, and went on to become a highly-regarded art director and production designer who won Oscars as art director on "Dr. Zhivago" (1968) and "Oliver!" (1968); his many credits included his work as production designer on Gene Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
 36. Congratulations to Jessie Amaolo on her promotion to curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library; her formal title is services specialist for the collection, and she succeeds Peggy Perdue, who has been promoted to senior department head of the special collections department.
 37. Leslie S. Klinger's BAKER STREET REVERIES: SHERLOCKIAN WRITINGS 2006-2016 (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 228 pp., \$23.95), a sequel to his BAKER STREET RAMBLES (2008), reprints his more recent essays, including his checklist, unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately) not illustrated) of Sherlockian pornography. Gasogene is at <www.wessexpress.com>.
 38. Gasogene has also published 70 YEARS BY GAS LAMP, edited by Mary Ann Bradley, Louise Haskett, and Melanie Hoffman (2018; 245 pp., \$21.95); it's the latest (sixth) casebook from The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, offering a wide variety of writings by its members and guest speakers. And Dan Andriaccio's imaginative and well-written pastiche HOUSE OF THE DOOMED (2018; 117 pp., \$19.95).
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39. Jan 18 #6 The Long Beach Shakespeare Company continued their annual celebration of Sherlock Holmes' birthday last month offering an Old Time Radio adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes and the Scandal in Bohemia" dramatized by Ken Knight and featuring Joe LoCicero as Holmes; you'll be able to listen to a podcast of the show at <www.lbshakespeare.org/audio.php> in late February.
 40. CBS has announced that the sixth season of "Elementary" (starring Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu) will premiere on Apr. 30; there will be 21 episodes in the season, which thus will run through the summer (some of us remember the long-ago age when series ran from fall through spring, and summer when one watched re-runs). If you want to know what Sherlock Holmes has on his book shelves (in "Elementary"), Gabby Barone has reported a list posted at Goodreads <www.tinyurl.com/ycfb8xur>.
 41. Some important news from the birthday festivities: a print of the 1929 German silent film "Der Hund von Baskerville" (directed by Richard Oswald and with Carlyle Blackwood as Holmes), discovered in Poland and now restored by the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, will have its world premiere at the Festival on June 2 <www.tinyurl.com/y6w6cy4a>. The Festival's blog also is interesting: one of the items there is Kyle Westphal's "The Un-Lost World: A Conversation with Serge Bromberg of Lobster Films" about the latest restoration of "The Lost World" (1925) <www.tinyurl.com/yc7h5kvb>.
 42. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK: THE STORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO CREATED AN ICON, and Michael Sims' ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF HOLMES (best critical/biographical), and Brad Ricca's MRS. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE STORY OF NEW YORK'S GREATEST FEMALE DETECTIVE AND THE 1917 MISSING GIRL CASE THAT CAPTIVATED A NATION (best fact crime) [not really Sherlockian]; the winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 26.
 43. Canterbury Classics offers a long series of "Word Cloud Classics" reprints in attractive "flexibound" bindings, one of the titles being THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2012; \$14.99), available at Amazon and elsewhere.
 44. Ken Ludwig, the author of the Sherlockian plays "Postmortem", "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" and "Baskerville: Sherlock Holmes Mystery" has a new (and non-Sherlockian) play: a dramatization of "Murder on the Orient Express". "It's glamorous, it's romantic, and just the title

- itself is magic," he has explained, adding that "It is a bigger play than I usually write for the stage, but I've been able to cut the number of suspects down." The play had its premiere at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J., last year, and is due at the Hartford Stage in Hartford, Conn., in February; the play has a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/y9dz2kw9>, and one can be sure it will be produced elsewhere.
45. Nick Utechin still is pursuing his search for the plates that were used to produce Helan Halbach's 1974 edition of Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" (Sep 13 #5) (and in the 2016 Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal) and would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has not already been in contact with him <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.

 46. Jan 18 #7 DEATH AT THE DIOGENES CLUB, by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley (Wilton Press, 2017; 355 pp., \$13.98), the sixth title in their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series, has Lucy (Sherlock Holmes' daughter) and Holmes in pursuit of a vicious killer in a novel that offers both thrills and romance, together with some interesting characters. The series has a web-site at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.
 47. Material from the Daniel Posnansky Collection already is turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, among them Lewis Durbin, whose shop is at lewidurbi0.
 48. THE HISTORY OF THE LIMITED EDITIONS CLUB, by Carol Porter Grossman (Newcastle: Oak Knoll Press, 2017; 268 pp., \$125.00), is a splendid book, printed and bound in the high-quality tradition of the Club, offering the story of George Macy, and the many delightful books the Club produced for its subscribers; there are three pages about the Club's spectacular edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES and how much work was involved earning George Macy a well-deserved Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars. There's more information about the book, with colorful images, at <www.oakknoll.com>.
 49. BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY: A SCANDAL IN CASSEROLE is the latest in the series of amusing comic books created by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason; it is available (along with their BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY comic strips) at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf>.
 50. Peter Wyngarde died on Jan. 15. He began his acting career with the Nottingham Repertory Company, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television; he played Baron Gruner with Peter Cushing in "The Illustrious Client" (1965), and Langdale Pike with Jeremy Brett in Granada's "The Three Gables" (1984). According to the obituary in the Guardian (Jan. 23) <www.tinyurl.com/yctcmdfw>, he had enough clout in 1965 that the producers of "The Illustrious Client" acceded to his agent's stipulation that on foreign prints he was credited alongside the leads in the opening titles, and was paid considerably more than Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock.
 51. David Harnois continues to add to his dramatized readings of the Canon, and he now offers "The Blue Carbuncle" and six other stories at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>, where you can listen to or download the readings, which are nicely done.
 52. HAMPSHIRE THROUGH WRITERS' EYES (London: Eland, 2017; 373 pp., £12.99) is edited by Alastair Langlands and offers an interesting anthology of commentary about the county by writers who range from Austen to Wodehouse; Conan Doyle is included, of course: he lived in Southsea when he created Sherlock Holmes, and wrote about the county in the Canon, and in THE WHITE COMPANY and MICAH CLARKE. Eland has been described as offering "guidebooks for the enquiring mind," and their web-site <www.travelbooks.co.uk> shows how wide their coverage of the world is.
 53. The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds>.

 54. Jan 18 #8 Fraser McAlpine has noted at Anglophenia some Sherlockian allusions in the "Doctor Who" episode "The Angels Take Manhattan" (broadcast on BBC One on Sept. 29, 2012): the first chapter in Melody Malone's pulp novel is titled "The Dying Detective", and the TARDIS lands in China in the year 221 BC; it is not a surprise that the script was written by Steven Moffat.
 55. "Sherlock Holmes is retired and in a foul mood. It's 1922, and Dr. Watson's granddaughter, Dot, has been trying to edit the old detective's long-awaited memoirs." That's the premise of the latest play by Craig Sodaro, just published by the Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> (\$7.00). Pioneer specializes in plays for schools and other organizations.
 56. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is heading back to the United States, and will open at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., on Nov. 3, running through May 27, 2019; their web-site's at <www.isc.org>, and while there's nothing about the exhibition up yet, stay tuned.
 57. Will Thomas' ANATOMY OF EVIL (New York: Minotaur, 2015; 336 pp., \$25.99) is the seventh in his series that features private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn, who in this novel have been enlisted to aid Scotland Yard in pursuit of Jack the Ripper, and are (eventually) successful at the end of a story that's told well and with imagination.
 58. Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Barnstable Comedy Club in Barnstable, Mass., through Feb. 4 <www.barnstablecomedyclub.org>.
 59. Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" is on at the Providence Playhouse in Scranton, Pa., through Feb. 4; web-site at <www.actorscircle.com>.
 60. Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" is on at the Brumder Mansion in Milwaukee, Wis., through Feb. 10 <www.milwaukeeemansion.com>. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is on at the Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville in Oceano, Calif., through Mar. 4; web-site at <www.greatamericanmelodrama.com>.
 61. R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is due at the Whidby Island Center for the Arts in Langley, Wash., Feb. 9-24; their web-site's at <www.wicaonline.org>.
 62. Max Gee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" is due at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., Apr. 7-May 12 <www.genesiantheatre.com.au>.
 63. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" has been scheduled at the Silver Spring Stage in Silver Spring, Md., on Apr. 13-May 5 <www.sstage.org>.
 64. Feb 18 #1 Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, which include Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (best nonfiction). The winners will be announced at Malice in Bethesda on Apr. 29.
 65. Sorry about that: in the last issue (Jan 18 #7) I noted that material from the Daniel Posnansky Collection already is turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, among them Lewis Durbin, whose shop actually is at lewidurbi0.

 66. "Worzel Gummidge" was a well-received British children's television series broadcast by ITV (1979-1981) that was continued in New Zealand as "Worzel Gummidge Down Under" (1987-1989). The series starred Jon Pertwee, and Howard Ostrom has discovered "Elementary My Dear Worthy" from the second series at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ybrkb378>. It's interesting to see Jon Pertwee as someone other than Doctor Who; Una Stubbs starred in the series as Aunt Sally, but doesn't appear in the Sherlockian episode.

67. Chris Redmond created <www.sherlockian.net> in 1994, and it's now managed by Michigan State University's WIDE Research Center; the web-site has been revised, and it's well worth visiting and exploring as a valuable resource for the ever-growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians.
68. J. M. W. Turner's iconic 1804 painting of the Reichenbach Falls seen twice in the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, at the end of the second season, and in the recent Christmas special, can be viewed on-line in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/hptv8q5>. If you like to know more about Turner and his work, Christie's has two excellent articles (one with an instructive video) on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ydgxenh4> and <www.tinyurl.com/y7syojua>.
69. Mike Vagnetti has reported a new stamp issued by the Solomon Islands, in a set of four stamps that honor the 300th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England (founded in 1717, it was the first Masonic Grand Lodge); the stamp shows both Conan Doyle and Holmes, and the others stamps show Ernest Shackleton, Winston Churchill, and Rudyard Kipling. Mike also reports that the American Topical Association has a checklist of Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes stamps, available only to members, with 63 entries. You can see the Solomon Island stamps in full color at Steve Trussel's excellent web-site "The Philatelic Sherlock Holmes" <www.trussel.com/detfrc/sholmes.htm>. And Mike <mjvagnetti@gmail.com> would be happy to hear from anyone who has Sherlockian items (stamps and poster stamps) to offer.
70. BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH READS SHERLOCK HOLMES' REDISCOVERED RAILWAY MYSTERIES is a two-CD set from BBC Worldwide (2015, £11.78), offering four pastiches written by John Taylor.
71. "Yuukoku no Moriarty" ["Moriarty the Patriot"] is a Japanese manga written by Ryounosuke Takeuchi and drawn by Hikaru Mihoshi, reimagining the Canon "with Moriarty as the protagonist and exploring his motivation in becoming the greatest criminal Britain has ever seen." It has not been published as a book in English, but 16 episodes are available in English on-line at the Manga Rock web-site <www.mangarock.com/manga/mrs/serie-100056011>.

72. Feb 18 #2 The Bookseller has reported that "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" (read by Stephen Fry) was Audible's best selling title in 2017; the set spent four month at the top of the Audible chart and was in the top 20 for 11 months since it was released in February 2016. If you don't have it yet, it is available at <www.audible.com> for \$85.26 (or free as a join-now premium).
73. In the last issue of this newsletter (Jan 18 #4) I wrote about someone who was nommed "whorl" (based on a belief that aliases used on the Internet are "noms" as in "noms de plume"). A query from a reader (actually, my sharpeyed proof-reader) led to some on-line research that revealed that my belief was unfounded, and then to a query to people who are far more Internet-savvy. Thanks to Lyndsay Faye, I can now report that an Internet alias is called a "pseud" (as in "pseudonym").
74. Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog offers two interesting items: one of them "Holmes & Watson 1916-2016" (an imaginative montage of film and television clips set to the song 'Something Good (Will Come from That)'" <www.tinyurl.com/y8uyqgmng> and the other an interview with Ross Davies about "Boxes from Royalty" <www.tinyurl.com/y9y52p94>.
75. I've reported before (Aug 16 #2) on APOPO <www.apopo.org>, a company that trains giant African pouched rats to detect unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off the mines, which can then be disarmed); the rats can also be trained to detect tuberculosis in mucous samples, and now they are in pursuit of smugglers who are shipping endangered pangolins from Africa to Asia, as noted in a recent report in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/y724dwol>. Needless to say, APOPO welcomes donations from people who want to adopt giant rats.
76. Has anyone seen the new play "The Play That Goes Wrong" (2012) in London or New York or elsewhere? The Tampa Bay Observer, reporting that the play is due there in October, describes it as "a carefully chaotic comedy that has tickled audiences with farcical disaster visited upon the erstwhile production of a Sherlock Holmes-style mystery."
77. Mort Walker died on Jan. 27. A legendary comic strip writer, he was best known for creating "Beetle Bailey" in 1950 and "Hi and Lois" in 1954, and drew "Beetle Bailey" for 68 years, making him the longest-running artist in comic-strip history. His colorful web-site is at <www.mortwalker.com>, and this strip was published on Jan. 7, 2008:

78. Feb 18 #3 The Strand Magazine (the modern version edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to publish quarterly <www.strandmag.com>, and its online blog includes interesting posts such as Daniel E. Lambert's "Sherlock Holmes in Verse" and Bonnie MacBird's "The Risk of 'The Reveal': Tampering with or Augmenting the Legend of Sherlock Holmes".
79. Leslie Katz continues to make his Sherlockian scholarship available at the Social Science Research Network; his latest article is "Each Picture Told a Story: Photography in the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" and you can read or download it (and his other articles) at <www.ssrn.com/author=1164057>.
80. The Holmes Financial Solutions web-site features a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes in the logo, and the company was in the news recently when it was fined £300,000 by the British government for making 8.8 million nuisance robo-calls in 2015 and 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/y8c4o35v>. The company's solicitors are at work on an appeal. If you're bothered by robo-calls in the U.S., there is a solution: <www.nomorobo.com>. The company won a challenge set by the Federal Trade Commission, and its service is available without charge for landlines (if your service provider's compatible) and for a modest monthly fee for cell phones. The N.Y. Times ran an interesting article last year <www.tinyurl.com/m4v8mkv> on how you can reduce the number of robo-calls you receive.
81. Les Klinger has an interesting web-site, which offers a helpful list of errata in all three volumes of THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, with a link at the end that allows you to download a PDF that shows which errata have been corrected in various editions <www.tinyurl.com/ycztyf48>.
82. I've long described this newsletter as six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean, and anyone who wants to run a word-search on two large files with all of the text since March 1985 can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates the compilation and makes it available for download from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ybxh2y2m>.
83. John Mahoney died on Feb. 4. He had a long acting career on stage, screen, and television, and was best known as Frasier Crane's father Martin Crane on the NBC-TV sitcom "Frasier"; he wore Sherlockian costume in the "Halloween" episode broadcast in 1993.
84. There have been occasional reviews of the new animated film "Batman: Gotham by Gaslight" that have mentioned its Sherlockian echoes. According to Den of Geek! <www.tinyurl.com/ydeuvdms>, there is good reason: Jim Krieg, who adapted the film, said in an interview that he grew up as a Holmes fan and "didn't want to leave any Sherlockian stone unturned," citing "A Study in Terror" (1965) as a favorite Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper film, and executive producer Bruce Timm said that he watched "Gilligan's Island" all the time as a kid, and recalled the episode that had the Professor as Sherlock Holmes and the Skipper as Dr. Watson. If you've not seen that episode of "Gilligan's Island" series it's "Up at Bat" (1966), and there's a Sherlockian clip at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8lp7qkc>, from the dream sequence that features Inspector Sherlock and Colonel Watney).

85. Feb 18 #4 Janet Hutchings, the editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, presides over a blog ("Something Is Going to Happen") that offers interesting contributions about "suspense, short stories, and the mystery-fiction scene," such as an interesting post last year on "The Last of the Kingdom of Romance: 90 Years Since the Publication of The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes" by R. T. Raichev <www.tinyurl.com/y9qoe374> and a "Report from Baker Street" by Steve Steinbock <www.tinyurl.com/y9bppzeh> about the 2016 annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars.
 86. John Morris died on Jan. 25. He began his musical career as a concert pianist ("I didn't like practicing," he once admitted) and went on to composing and arranging for Broadway shows, and then for films, and his credits included the orchestration for "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
 87. "Rugger, Romance, and Sherlock Holmes!" is the title of an illustrated talk delivered by Roger Johnson this month during the Portsmouth Bookfest last month; if you're wondering how those three topics were combined in the same talk, it was subtitled "You Should Go to Blackheath First" and Roger suggests that "the importance of Blackheath in the life of Arthur Conan Doyle and in the career of Sherlock Holmes should not be overlooked."
 88. Lakin & Marley Rare Books in Mill Valley, Calif., are offering the original Universal Studios script archives for the Rathbone/Bruce series, most heavily annotated; go to <www.tinyurl.com/y86rhapq> for detailed descriptions and commentary.
 89. Further to the item (Dec 17 #3) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: the tartan will have an official launch party at the Physicians Hall in Edinburgh on Mar. 22; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yawvtmrx>. Karen Ellery notes that you can inspect the official registration for the tartan at <www.tinyurl.com/y7twgdsq>. Lee Crow reports that there is an older Holmes tartan (from 1830); you can search the Register's web-site to find tartans for Watson and Moriarty and (likely) other Canonical characters.
 90. For anyone who misses "Sherlock": "The Sherlock You Didn't See: Scenes—and Entire Episodes--That Never Aired" was the headline on a story at Digital Spy <www.tinyurl.com/yd99rmmh>.
 91. The winter issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) celebrates the 150th anniversary of Canada as a nation, and offers Donny Zaldin's article "Arthur Conan Doyle and Canada: 1914 and One Hundred Years Hence" along with news from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and you can join the Friends at <www.acdfriends.org>.
 92. "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" was a delightful Japanese animated television series broadcast in 1984-1985, with 26 episodes (the first six directed by Hayao Miyazaki). Holmes is a red fox, Watson a Scottish terrier, and Moriarty a gray wolf, and it's nice indeed that all 26 episodes now are available at YouTube; search for [sherlock hound].
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93. Feb 17 #5 George MacDonald Fraser noted in his introduction to a new edition of THE WHITE COMPANY and SIR NIGEL (Feb 00 #7) that John Ford was said to have had THE WHITE COMPANY in his sights at the end of his career, with John Wayne and Alec Guinness in mind. According to Wikipedia, the two novels were among Wayne's favorite books.
 94. A GIFT OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: CHRISTMAS 1914: EDITION: THE VALLEY OF FEAR is a reproduction of what Ross E. Davies suggests might have been the true first book edition of the story (as he explained at this year's annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars). His book offers the text that was published in the Associated Sunday Magazines in newspapers in the U.S., which differs from the text that appeared in The Strand Magazine and then in books in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. in 1915. Ross has supplied a perceptive introduction, and he has kindly made an electronic edition of his book available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y83d3gvd>.
 95. It should be noted that the book is only one of the many items available at <www.rossdavies.org>; click on "Maps and misc." and "Sherlockian toasts" to find links to interesting Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) material. You can also click on "Green Bag" and then on "Almanac & Reader" to be able to read the 2012 edition (which honored Rex Stout and Nero Wolfe); the 2015, 2016, and 2017 editions were thoroughly Sherlockian and Doylean.
 96. DOUBLE TROUBLE IN BUGLAND, by William Kotzwick (Boston: David R. Govine, 2016; 244 pp., \$14.95) is a colorful sequel to his TROUBLE IN BUGLAND (Jun 83 #2), again illustrated by Joe Servello, and offering further adventures of Inspector Mantis and his companion Dr. Hopper.
 97. Holmes and Watson appear to be taking over the MCU . . . that's the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which was launched with "Iron Man" in 2008 with Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark, and included "Doctor Strange" in 2016 with Benedict Cumberbatch as Stephen Strange, and now there's "Black Panther" with Martin Freeman as Everett K. Ross (kindly reported by Samantha Wolov).
 98. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y76whnjf> has much to offer, including a new web-only column "Stranger Than Fiction" by Dean Jobb; his February column ("We Hear of Sherlock Everywhere") calls attention to four recent Sherlockian and Doylean titles.
 99. Congratulations to Maggie Schpak, who received the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the Costume Designers Guild. Maggie handcrafts the colorful raffle prizes for the Dr. John H. Watson Fund at each year's birthday festivities in New York, and at her Metal Arts Studio in Los Angeles makes items for major films and television series <www.tinyurl.com/y8m7zwze>; you can see her in the photo gallery at the web-site.
 100. Reported by Howard Ostrom: Ernie Kovacs and Hans Conried in deerstalkers in "Private Eye, Private Eye" (an episode of "The U.S. Steel Hour" broadcast by CBS-TV on Mar. 8, 1961); the spoof of detective stories is included as a bonus disk with the first 1,000 copies of "Ernie Kovacs: Take a Good Look: The Definitive Collection" (available from Shout! Factory for \$64.97). One hopes that the episode will be available eventually at YouTube; but in the meantime you can see them with Edie Adams at <www.youtube.com/y842v4cq>.
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101. Feb 18 #6 IN THE SHADOW OF AGATHA CHRISTIE: CLASSIC CRIME FICTION BY FORGOTTEN FEMALE WRITERS: 1850-1917, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2018; 356 pp., \$26.95) was reviewed in Publishers Weekly as a "stellar" anthology and a "must-have volume for classic crime fans," and includes Carolyn Wells' "The Adventure of the Clothes-Line" (a 1915 burlesque that features Sherlock Holmes as the president of the Society of Infallible Detectives) and Baroness Orczy's "The Regent's Park Murder" (about the baffling murder of a man who had won at cards, published in 1901, two years before "The Empty House").
 102. Paul D. Herbert ("Mr. Leverton, of Pinkerton's") died on Feb. 16. He was excellent high-school history teacher, an energetic and wide-ranging collector, the founder of the Tankerville Club of Cincinnati and its only official secretary, and a delightful Sherlockian who was awarded his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1977 and their Two-Shilling Award in 2004; he also for twenty years was the BSI's Dr. Watson, presiding over the Dr. John H. Watson Fund, which offers financial assistance to Sherlockians who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities in New York.
 103. THE SECRET OF THE COTTINGLEY FAIRIES, by F. R. Maher (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2017; 96 pp., \$20.53), offers a speculative explanation for the famous hoax. The author also presides over the annual Legendary Llangollen Faery Festival in Wales <www.northwalesfaeryfestival.com>.
 104. Further to the report (Oct 17 #4) on the competition set by the Folio Society and House of Illustration for artwork for THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, there were 450 entries and 24 finalists. Samples of the finalists' imaginative submissions were published in full

- color at the web-site of the Guardian on Feb. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/ydgobmfz>, and the winners were chosen by a panel of six judges that included Helen Dorey as their Sherlockian expert. The \$5,000 commission to illustrate the book and design the binding was won by Max Löffler <www.tinyurl.com/y7r8d93k>.
105. Bill Crider died on Feb. 18. He was an author, a critic, a columnist, and a reviewer, all in the mystery field; Janet Hutchings, the editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, described him as a superfan and a perfect fit for the magazine's Blog Bytes department. His stories included three Sherlockian pastiches, and his web-site <www.billcrider.com> nicely shows how wide his interests were.
 106. "Blossom Detective Holmes" (an animated mini-series that's seeking funding at Kickstarter) features two teen-age girls: Skylar Holmes and Jamie Watson; details (and video) at <www.tinyurl.com/ya46os5a>.
 107. IMAGINATION THEATRE'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by David Marcum (London: MX Publishing, 2017; 388 pp., \$34.95), is a collection of 15 scripts from "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the long-running radio series produced by the late Jim French from 1998 to 2017). The scripts for the pastiches were written by Jim French and other authors, and provide a welcome opportunity for those who enjoy radio drama to see what goes into creating entertaining programs. The MX web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
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108. Feb 18 #7 Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at the Warehouse Living Arts Center in Corsicana, Texas, through Mar. 3 <www.warehouselivingartscenter.com>. And it's due at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia, Calif., Aug. 31-Sept. 30 <www.sierrarep.org>.
 109. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Kinetic Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., through Mar. 4 <www.kinetictheatre.org>. It's also scheduled at the Norris Center in Naples, Fla., Mar. 21-Apr. 20, 2019; web-site at <www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org>.
 110. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is running at the Wells Theatre in Norfolk, Va., through Mar. 11; web-site at <www.vastage.org>.
 111. Simon Williams' "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at The Mill in Sonning Theatre in Sonning Eye, Oxon., until Mar. 17 <www.millatsonning.com>.
 112. C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" is being performed at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Tex., through Mar. 24; web-site at <www.theatresuburbia.org>.
 113. The East Lynne Theater Company's will be touring Craig Wichman's radio-theater production of "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" will tour in New Jersey in March <www.tinyurl.com/ya6busq8>.
 114. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Town Theatre in Columbia, S.C., Mar. 2-18 <www.towntheatre.com>.
 115. C. P. Stancich's new play "Oscar Dove: Letters to Sherlock" will premiere at the Mary Miller Theatre in Lafayette, Colo., Mar. 2-24; their web-site's at <www.tclstage.org>.
 116. Vince Staddon's "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Mar. 2-31 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
 117. Peter Birch's new "The Sign of the Four" will be performed at the Garrick Theatre in Altrincham, Manchester, Mar. 5-10 <www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk>.
 118. Broadway RDF will perform "Murder in the Casbah" (1945) in their "Old Time Radio Hour" at the Swedish Crown Restaurant in Lindsborg, Kans., Mar. 8 and 10 <www.broadwayrfd.org>.
 119. John Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the East Cleveland Theater in East Cleveland, Ohio, Mar. 23-Apr. 8 <www.eastclevelandtheater.org>.
 120. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) is scheduled at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., on Aug. 1-Oct. 27 <www.shawfest.com>.
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121. Mar 18 #1 "If we could have ordered nature to construct a spot for us, it could not have hit upon anything more perfect," Conan Doyle wrote after visiting the site of Undershaw, and the Stepping Stones School has invited everyone to a celebration of his life and times on May 25-27; you can sit in the study in which he brought Sherlock Holmes back to life, and enjoy a variety of activities. Details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/ya2h67zb>.
 122. Greg Darak has reported a nice discovery in Abel Green's THE SPICE OF VARIETY (published by Henry Holt in 1952); it's an anthology of articles that appeared in Variety, and one of them is drama critic Ashton Steven's "Night Letter Biographies"; he had asked actors to write autobiographies "confined to dimensions of a Western Union night letter, which at that time ran to 50 words before the extras began to count up." The first (with slightly more than 50 words) was written by William Gillette: AT AGE OF 18 COULD READ AND WRITE. AND HAD GRADUATED FROM EVERY CIRCUS THAT CAME TO TOWN. DID NOT RUN AWAY AND GO ON THE STAGE BECAUSE THERE WAS NOTHING TO RUN AWAY FROM. EVERYBODY HELPED ME TO LEAVE - AND THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON EVER SINCE. IT IS NOW 1930 AND I DO NOT FEEL VERY WELL - WILLIAM GILLETTE.
 123. You can see Benedict Cumberbatch perform "I'm a Little Teapot" at the Nerd Reactor web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7tw34ok>. You can also see his audition for Smaug in "The Hobbit" at <www.tinyurl.com/mftxbvq>, and then how he was filmed as Smaug at <www.tinyurl.com/ydhmyvr8>.
 124. Jim Webb kindly reported on Nick Allen's article in the Daily Telegraph on Mar. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/y98uwjpu> on comments by Vasily Nebenzya, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, on the nerve gas poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skirpal in England; Nebenzya compared the intelligence of Sherlock Holmes with that of Inspector Lestrade, and suggested that "we could all benefit from having a Sherlock Holmes with us today," adding that "the collective Inspector Lestrades today are high-level members of the UK government who are coming up with egregious, superficial, and unsupported accusations." This may be the first official mention of Sherlock Holmes at the United Nations, and you can watch Nebenzya's speech (with English subtitles) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=94I54nQnaCl> at [14:38 minutes].
 125. Bakerstreet Coffee, a Sherlock Holmes-themed cafe that will offer a fireplace, bookcases, and cozy furniture, is scheduled to open in mid-April in Livingstone, Mont. "I love Sherlock Holmes," co-owner Cassandra Weisgerber told the Livingston Enterprise, "and I obviously love themes."
 126. Roger Johnson launched The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter The District Messenger, on Dec. 1, 1982, reporting the latest Sherlockian and Doylean news from the U.K. and elsewhere; Jean Upton is the editor now, and the newsletter is now at 373 issues, all available at the web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London <www.tinyurl.com/yd5et39e>. There's always much of interest, including (in the February issue) news from Paul Carley of his "Sherlock Holmes in Phonetic Transcription" (phonetic may or may not count as a language that Don Hobbs will add to his bibliography of translations "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"); the project has begun with "A Scandal in Bohemia" <www.phoneticsherlock.blogspot.co.uk>.
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127. Mar 18 #2 Rachel McMillan's THE BACHELOR GIRL'S GUIDE TO MURDER (Eugene: Harvest House, 2016; 222 pp., \$9.99) is set in Toronto in 1910 and features Merinda Herringford and Jem Watts, two young women who would like to become detectives in the tradition of Holmes and Watson; the

- series includes two more novels, *A LESSON IN LOVE AND MURDER* (2016) and *THE WHITE FEATHER MURDERS* (2017), and there are two e-book novellas and a (free) e-story available at Amazon.
128. The manuscript of "The Dancing Men" will be up for bids on Apr. 18 at Heritage Auctions in Dallas <www.tinyurl.com/ycreu8gc> (877-437-4824), with an opening bid of \$250,000. Randall Stock has an excellent illustrated discussion of the manuscript, including its history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/dancing-men-2018.htm>.
 129. "Sherlock Holmes contre Conan Doyle" is the title of a French documentary broadcast by France 5 on Feb. 18; the program included interviews with Roger Johnson, Anthony Horowitz, Vincent Delay, Pierre Bayard, and others, and it's available in English ("Sherlock Holmes Against Conan Doyle") at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yb8gnqkf>.
 130. Peter Miles died on Feb. 26. He began his acting career on stage and went on to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and then moved on to supporting roles in television, including three appearances in "Doctor Who"; he also played Sam Brewer in "Shoscombe Old Place" and Williamson in "The Solitary Cyclist" in Peter Cushing's BBC-1 television series (1968) and Sir William Gull in Brian Clemens' play "Holmes and the Ripper" (1988).
 131. Evy Herzog spotted a Sumikko Gurashi Inspector Takage at a Barnes & Noble store (\$19.95) <www.tinyurl.com/y8avqfdg>; it's a 6-inch-high plush toy, and available at other web-sites as a Sumikko Gurashi Detective Dinosaur. It seems that Sumikko Gurashi Tokage is the son of the Loch Ness Monster, and an addition to the series of toys launched by the Japanese company San-X in 2012.
 132. There have been past discussions of actors who have played both Holmes and Watson, and Moriarty, and Conan Doyle, and it turns out that there actors who have played both Holmes and Lestrade; Howard Ostrom has discovered that Peter Bromilow toured the streets of Toronto dressed as Sherlock Holmes to publicize the try-out there of the musical "Baker Street" in 1965 (he also played Lestrade in Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" in Los Angeles in 1984).
 133. Roger Johnson reports that Roger Llewellyn also has played Holmes and Lestrade, and Howard notes that John Colicos has played Holmes, Lestrade, and Moriarty, and that Tim Pigott-Smith has played Holmes, Lestrade, and Watson. Any others to add to the list?
 134. Jeff Falkingham's *MURDER IN MINNESOTA!* (Murrieta: AuthorCentrix, 2018; 259 pp., \$10.99) offers reprints of his earlier *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE CAPER* (2007) and *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN SEARCH OF THE SOURCE* (2009); Holmes is in Browns Valley in 1886 to solve a series of murders, and in St. Paul in 1896 to solve another mystery (both stories involve a lot of local history); the author's web-site is at <www.cccaper.com>.
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135. Mar 18 #3 John Nicholson, who collaborated with Steve Canny to dramatize "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as a three-man comedy for Peepolykus in 2007, went on to parody "Dracula: The Bloody Truth" as a four-man comedy for Le Navet Bete last year; it's not Sherlockian, but there are some interesting (and amusing) trailers available at YouTube. There is a web-site for the play at <www.lenavetbete.com/shows/dracula>.
 136. Lewis Neisner died on Mar. 1. He worked in retail as an officer of the national chain Neisner Bros., and then as a professor retailing and marketing at universities in New York and Maryland, and was the founder of the Sherlockian society Rochester Row in Rochester, N.Y.
 137. The Redbeard Brewing Co. makes "small batches of big beers" and has a craft brewery and taproom in Staunton, Va., where you can imbibe their 221B Baker Brown Ale <www.tinyurl.com/y9xxlym2>.
 138. Further to items about Grace Humiston, a lawyer-turned-investigator in 1917 who was known as "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" (Sep 11 #4 and Oct 17 #7), she will be featured in this season of the NBC-TV series "Timeless" (as reported by Brian Truitt in USA Today on Mar. 7).
 139. They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is set for Aug. 11. Lou Lewis <llewis@lewisgreer.com> is the contact, if you want to enroll on their mailing list.
 140. Alexander Orlov has noted a Dr. Watson Restaurant in Moscow; the web-site's at <www.drwatson-restaurant.ru> (where they advertise "traditional English cuisine" and "British-loved beers").
 141. Chris Redmond will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 21 at the Toronto Reference Library, speaking on "Sherlock Holmes and the Holy Grail" <www.acdfriends.org>; admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.
 142. Alexa, according to Wikipedia, is an "intelligent personal assistant" developed by Amazon for use in its Amazon Echo. If you have Alexa, you can play "Baker Street Experience" (an interactive audio Sherlock Holmes adventure developed by Schell Games); their web-site www.tinyurl.com/ycoagvm4 includes a link to a review that allows everyone to sample the game.
 143. The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State will hold this year's Christopher Morley Birthday Lunch in Hoboken, N.J., on Apr. 29; more information is available from Terry Hunt <18goldini95@gmail.com>.
 144. The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh, home of the Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists, has interesting events scheduled in August: Ann Treherne will talk about "Arthur Conan Doyle: Spiritualist", Bob Stek about "The Strange Friendship of Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini", and Peter Barratt about his great-grandmother "Alice Hawkins: Suffragette"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/y7owl3dj>. The Centre's an interesting venue for Peter Barratt's lecture, considering Conan Doyle's negative comments about suffragettes.
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145. Mar 18 #4 SYFY Wire reported on Mar. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/yc7ekeyj> that Stephen King and Bev Vincent have edited *FLIGHT OR FRIGHT* (due in September from Cemetery Dance Books); the book's an anthology of flight-based horror stories (including Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights"), and it will be published in three formats: a standard hardcover (\$29.95), a slip-cased numbered edition (\$85.00), and a leather-bound limited edition signed by King (\$1500.00) that's already sold out.
 146. Further to the item (Aug 17 #6) about plans to film Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" in western Canada, the completed film premiered at the College of New Caledonia's "Cinema CNC Film Festival" on Mar. 9. There is an excellent trailer for the film at <www.thedoctorscasemovie.com>.
 147. Karen Kruse Anderson ("Emilia Lucca") died on Mar. 18. Karen was a teenager in Washington, D.C., in 1949, when she found three fellow-enthusiasts and founded The Red Circle in 1950. After moving to California she met and married Poul Anderson and went on to write delightful science-fiction and fantasy, both with her husband and on her own. She was noted as the first person to use the term "filk music" in print (1955), and was the author of the first published "scifaiku" (1962). Karen also wrote a draft version of "Hatty, or St. Simon's Bride (A Filbert and Sullivan Chamber Operetta)" for performance in 1994; the work was completed as "A Filk Opera" and presented by the "Doyle a la Carte Opera Company" in 1995 (with Karen performing as Sherlock Holmes). She received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2000.
 148. The Christopher Morley Knothole Association reports in the February issue of their newsletter on a workshop reading last year of a new musical comedy "I'll Take It" based on Morley's book *PARNASSUS ON WHEELS*; book and lyrics by Eli Pasic, music by Henry Krieger, and there was a story about the event in Broadway World Off-Broadway <www.tinyurl.com/ya6v3gwl>.

149. "Holmes in the Heartland" is the title of the conference planned for Aug. 10-11 by The Parallel Case of St. Louis; details on the gathering will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5elpmj>.
150. Sherlock Holmes' parents' home is on the market for £950,000. The six-bedroom house, called Trewalter Fawr, is located in the Vale of Glamorgan and was featured in the episode "His Last Vow" in the BBC's "Sherlock" series; details (with images) at <www.tinyurl.com/y9pyk7k5>.
151. "People love the monster but do not always honor the book," Scott Van Wynsberghe wrote in the National Post on Mar. 9, in a long article about FRANKENSTEIN <www.tinyurl.com/yabl4pb5>, kindly reported by Cliff Goldfarb; one might believe that the quote might apply also to Sherlock Holmes.
152. A collection of 21 letters from Dorothy L. Sayers to various correspondents is up for bids at RR Auction on Apr. 11; in 1937 she wrote to Walter Klinefelter: "I am afraid I am not really very learned in the higher criticism of Sherlock Holmes, but the man who can, I am sure, give you the information...would be Mr. H. W. Bell...who wrote 'Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson,' and who is engaged on an elaborate and careful research into Conan Doyle's sources." <www.tinyurl.com/y99aj72v>.

153. Mar 18 #5 There may someday be an annotated edition of Conan Doyle's 1896 novel RODNEY STONE about the early days of bare-knuckle boxing, but in the meantime you can read about the real boxer John Jackson, who appears in the novel, at Wikipedia; he is buried at Brompton Cemetery in London, as reported by Alexander Orlov, and the Wikipedia entry has an image of Jackson's elaborate funerary monument.
154. Brooks Arthur Wachtel's LADY SHERLOCK: CIRCLE OF THE SMILING DEAD (Colorado Springs: WordFire, 2016; 232 pp., \$15.99) is set in 1906 and features Lady Natasha Dorrington ("an emancipated and brilliant detective") in a battle with a pagan cult that wants to launch a world-wide war; Mycroft Holmes is involved on behalf of the government, with Sherlock Holmes making a brief appearance.
155. "You don't know Sherlock Holmes yet: the story begins in Portsmouth" is the title of an exhibition that will open at the Portsmouth City Museum on May 22, offering an exploration of the time Conan Doyle spent in the city and how it shaped Sherlock Holmes.
156. Further to the item (Feb 18 #4) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: according to a story in the Daily Telegraph (Mar. 25), Richard Pooley, director of the Conan Doyle Estate, has said that the Estate is working on getting stars of the upcoming comedy "Holmes and Watson" to wear the tartan on the red carpet when the film opens in November. Pooley has more to say about the tartan at the Estate's web-site <www.conandoyleestate.com> (see "Weaving Family and Holmes Together").
157. "Family Guy: V Is for Mystery" (broadcast on Fox on Mar. 25) had Stewie and Brian as Holmes and Watson in London in 1896; it's available (for a while) at <www.tinyurl.com/y96md2nc> and <www.tinyurl.com/y7vmc375>.
158. Henry Mance suggested in the Financial Times on Mar. 23 that the decision by Cynthia Nixon (Miranda in "Sex and the City") to run for governor of New York might inspire other actors: "Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective is all-knowing, able to infer people's characters from tiny details about their appearances and social habits. But when actor Benedict Cumberbatch sees that Facebook can do exactly the same thing, he realizes the error of his ways and becomes a pro-privacy Liberal Democrat candidate."
159. "Sherlock Gnomes" (the animated sequel to "Gnomeo and Juliet") will delight people who look for easter eggs in films, and it will interesting to see if someone puts up a web-site devoted to them. They're not only Sherlockian (watch for a tip of the hat to Ray Harryhausen), but there are plenty that will please the faithful: to start you off, the shop called Curly Fu's is a substitute for the Lucky Cat shop in the BBC's "Sherlock" series, and Curly Fu is the Chinese nickname for Benedict Cumberbatch's Sherlock Holmes.
160. An art group calling itself the Philosoraptors has released a video showing the face of Russian president Vladimir Putin being projected onto the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Mar. 18 (the day he was re-elected after a landslide victory) with the words "Miss Me?" in an apparent reference to the BBC's "Sherlock" series <www.tinyurl.com/y7h4e5hn>. A Foreign Office spokeswoman denied that the event happened.

161. Mar 18 #6 Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at Scripps Ranch Theatre in San Diego, Calif., through Apr. 9 <www.scrippsranchtheatre.org>. The play also is scheduled at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse in Cannon Beach, Ore., June 22 to Sept. 2 <www.coastertheatre.com>.
162. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Maverick Theatre in Fullerton, Calif., through Apr. 22 <www.mavericktheatre.com>.
163. Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled by the English Speaking Society of the Université Bretagne Sud at the Paquebot in Lorient, France on Apr. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/y9q8xsjt>.
164. Callum Hale's parody "The Adventure of Isaac Saddlesore and the Witches of Drenn" will be performed at the Hen & Chicks Theatre in London on Apr. 8-9 <www.tinyurl.com/yaodd82b>.
165. Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Northwest Cabarrus High School in Concord, N.C., Apr. 13-14; web-site at <www.riseandshineplayers.com>.
166. "No Sh*t Sherlock!" (a program of four one-act plays that will include Tim Kelly's "The Last of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Northminster Community Hall in San Diego, Calif., Apr. 13-21 <www.clairmontactone.org>.
167. Tommy Kelley's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Crime of the Century" is scheduled at the Central School Project in Bisbee, Ariz., Apr. 20-29; their Facebook page is at <www.tinyurl.com/yavnkag9>.
168. "A Scandal in Nova Alba" (a new one-act play by Orlando Pearson) is scheduled at the cornerHOUSE Community Arts Centre in Surbiton, London, Apr. 24-28 <www.thech.org>; "a mix of Bard and Baker Street".
169. "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Curtain" (a new play by Simon Reade) will debut at the Theatre Royal in Bath, Apr. 25-May 5, and then go on tour in Britain; the tour schedule is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y9gkkaj9>.
170. The Baker Street Players will present Beth Barnard's new play "A Study in Sherlock: The Bitter Nemesis" at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., on Apr. 28 and May 5 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>; her "A Study in Sherlock: "You Sea But You Do Not Observe" is scheduled for Sept. 8 and 15.
171. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Reno Little Theater in Reno, Nev., on May 4-20; web-site at <renolittletheater.org>.
172. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Stepping Stone School at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home) on May 25-26 <www.tinyurl.com/y7e5fpyk>.

173. Apr 18 #1 The manuscript of "The Dancing Men" offered at Heritage Auctions in Dallas on Apr. 18 (Mar 18 #2) sold for \$312,500 (the opening bid of \$250,000 plus the buyer's premium); Randall Stock has provided an excellent illustrated discussion of the manuscript, including its history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/dancing-men-2018.htm>. There's also an interesting post about the manuscript, and the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript-series volume DANCING TO DEATH (Jan 17 #2), at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog www.tinyurl.com/yahwcxj9.

- DANCING TO DEATH is still available for purchase at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. And it is a pleasure to report that the manuscript now is part of the collection of Glen A. Miranker.
174. Further to the item about the pterosaur "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" and the tetrapod "Irritator challengeri" (described by David M. Martill and his co-authors from the Lower Cretaceous formations of Brazil (Feb 96 #1), both fossils are included in a database at <www.dinosaurpictures.org>; billed as the world's largest dinosaur database, it also offers a link to an interactive globe of ancient earth that allows you to see how the Earth's surface has changed from the Edicarian Period (600 million years ago) to the present.
 175. "Moffat and Gatiss Confirm New Sherlock Series" was the headline on James C. O'Leary's post to Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" website <www.tinyurl.com/y9xtukv> earlier this month; the new series is scheduled to air on CBS-TV in the network's next season.
 176. Further to the item (Mar 18 #1) on Vasily Nebenzya's speech at the United Nations, the Daily Telegraph has (alas) a pay-wall for archived articles, and YouTube presents moving targets: try <www.tinyurl.com/yaoumnu>; the Sherlockian segment starts at 14:05 minutes.
 177. It should be noted that in a later speech Nebenzya read from "Alice in Wonderland" ("sentence first and verdict afterwards") in discussing the nerve-gas poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skirpal in England. Alexander Orlov has noted that Nebenzya's father was deputy chairman of the USSR Committee for Publishing, and chairman of the Council for Children's Literature.
 178. And the saga continues: Karen Peirce, the U.K. ambassador to the U.N., responded to a request from Russia that its scientists be allowed to investigate the poisoning by saying that permitting them to join "an investigation when they are the most likely perpetrators of the crime ... would be like Scotland Yard inviting in Professor Moriarty."
 179. When you're in India: Sherlock's Pub is now open in Chennai [formerly known as Madras, with a video spotted by Jennie Paton <www.tinyurl.com/y97jgwem>.
 180. Jean Upton reports in the latest issue of the District Messenger (the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London) that the National Portrait Gallery's portrait of Conan Doyle, by Henry Gates, is on display again (in room 31) and appears to have been cleaned and restored. Current and past issues of the newsletter are archived at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5et39e>.
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181. Apr 18 #2 Laurie R. King's ISLAND OF THE MAD (New York: Bantam, 2018; 306 pp., \$28.00) has Mary Russell (and her husband Sherlock Holmes) first in England and then in Venice, in 1925, when Americans (including Elsa Maxwell and Cole Porter) are enjoying themselves, and Mussolini's Black Shirts are on the rise; the mystery's imaginative, the politics compelling, and Venice, as always, is intriguing.
 182. The Public Safety Center in Edmond, Okla., displays a bronze sculpture of Sherlock Holmes, created by artist Jane DeDecker and dedicated on Oct. 29, 2015. Images of the sculpture can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/y8dx4lvm>.
 183. "Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" is the title of The Norwegian Explorers' next conference in Minneapolis, scheduled for Aug. 9-11, 2019, at the Graduate Hotel (the new name of the Commons Hotel), and there will be an evening reception on Apr. 8; you can enroll on their mailing list by contacting Julie McKuras <mike9750@aol.com>.
 184. How many of Sherlock Holmes' books have you read? Not the Sherlock Holmes in the Canon, but rather the Sherlock Holmes played by Jonny Lee Miller in "Elementary". Listopia (a feature of Goodreads) has a list of 27 books in Holmes' brownstone, and if you can identify more you're welcome to add to the list <www.tinyurl.com/yafb8xur>.
 185. Here a Baskerville, there a Baskerville, everywhere a Baskerville: further to the item (Oct 95 #1) on Crowsley Park House in Henley-on-Thames, owned by the Baskerville family, one of whose members, Sir Henry Baskerville, was High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1847: it's one of the many house alleged to have inspired the Sherlock Holmes story, and it has stone gatepost statues of "hell hounds" with spears through their mouths; you can see one of the hounds in a story in the Henley Standard <www.tinyurl.com/y9muagr5>, with mention of the Baskerville Arms, a pub in nearby Lower Shiplake (not to be confused with The Baskerville Arms in Hay-on-Wye, near Clyro in Wales).
 186. Further to the item (Mar 18 #4) on the Dorothy L. Sayers letter to Walter Klinefelter in which she recommended he contact H. W. Bell for information about the higher criticism of Sherlock Holmes, it was one of 21 letters in the lot at RR Auction that had an opening bid of \$300 and sold for \$4,500 (plus 22.5% buyer's premium).
 187. A reminder of the days when there were smoking and non-smoking sections in restaurant: a (briefly) Sherlockian commercial in favor of proposition 10 in California, on "The David Letterman Show" on Oct. 24, 1980, spotted by Greg Ruby <www.tinyurl.com/ya9crje8> (at 28:24 minutes).
 188. Andrew Ive has noted an interesting possibility for the origin of Sherlock Holmes' names: Conan Doyle married Louise Hawkins in 1885 in Lonsdale, near St. Mary's Church in Ingleton, where the Rev. Thomas Dod Sherlock had been vicar, and where a nearby area was called the Holmes. The church in Ingleton has launched a campaign to raise money for repairs, and there are plans to have a statue of Sherlock Holmes placed in the grounds once the building work has been completed, and contributions will be most welcome; there is more information at <www.ingleton.co.uk/sherlock_holmes.asp>, and you can reach Andrew Ive at <andyive69@gmail.com>.
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189. Apr 18 #3 The Brigadier Gerard is now shut and empty. That's the pub in York, which was originally a private house, then the Gasworks Social Club, and in 1984 expanded as The Brigadier Gerard; it was named not in honor of the hero of Conan Doyle's stories, but rather for a famous race horse. York Mix reported on Mar. 28, that the pub suddenly closed, with no explanation from the brewery that managed it. racing fans are aware that the horse was named for Conan Doyle's swashbuckling hero, and it is worth noting that there is another pub called The Brigadier Gerard, in Eastleigh.
 190. Pokémon's new Nintendo game "Detective Pikachu" has been released, and the company has kindly made a comic book "Detective Pikachu: Episode 0--Eevee's Case" available as a free Kindle download at <www.amazon.com>.
 191. Adolph Treidler's atmospherically-Sherlockian ink-and-brush painting of a hansom cab and its driver is available from Taraba Illustration Art for \$350 (plus \$50 domestic shipping); the image size is 8 x 10 in.). Treidler (1886-1961) was well-known for his magazine covers, posters, and illustrations for advertising; first come, first served, and you can contact Fred Taraba by e-mail <fred@tarabaillustrationart.com> to purchase the artwork. Fred advertises a wide variety of attractive original artwork at his web-site, including an illustration by Robert Fawcett for a non-Sherlockian story by Noel Langley (Fawcett also illustrated Sherlockian pastiches written by Arthur Whitaker, and by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr).
 192. "Secret Agent Selection: WW2" is the title of a five-episode weekly television series launched by BBC Two on Apr. 9, about the beginning of the Special Operations Executive, whose members were known as the Baker Street Irregulars (because their original offices in 1940 were in Baker Street); the series may (or may not) air in other countries, eventually.
 193. Further to the report (Dec 17 #8) that his long-running "Detective Conan" manga series would be on hiatus while he recovered from illness, Gosho Aoyama announced that the comic would return to stores in April. The manga features a genius teenage detective who shrank into a young boy after being forced to ingest an experimental toxin and takes on the alias Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Conan Doyle) and continues to solve mysteries. The

- series has been translated into more than two dozen languages (the English version is titled "Case Closed") and has been adapted into an animated series, feature films, video games, and live-action specials.
194. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE VANISHING MAN is a new comic-book series due from Dynamite Entertainment in May, written by Leah Moore and John Reppion, with cover artist John Cassaday and interior artist Julius Ohta. Dan Wickline had a preview at Bleeding Cool on Mar. 29 <www.tinyurl.com/ycmbczxo>.
 195. "We Are The Mighty" describes itself as a "military media brand run by veterans, military family members, and civilians to bring relevant, engaging entertainment to the military community," and they recently posted a video of a taste test of a British field ration from the Second Boer War, something Arthur Conan Doyle might have eaten in South Africa almost 120 years ago <www.tinyurl.com/y745s83c>.
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196. Apr 18 #4 Carol Nelson Douglas reports that Midnight Louis, P.I., who's featured in a 28-book alphabetical mystery series, will return in October in ABSINTHE WITHOUT LEAVE; the book will also have a cameo appearance by Irene Adler (the heroine of an eight-book series about the only woman who outwitted Sherlock Holmes). There is more information about Carol, and her books, at her web-site <www.carolnelsondouglas.com>.
 197. Further to the item (Jul 15 #2) on "Sherlock Holmes' Fictional Baker Street Home in London Subject to Ownership Mystery" about just who owns the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary: it's still a mystery, although it seems to be tied to Kazakh oligarch Nurali Aliyev, according to a report at Microsoft's MSN web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y82jxwoe>, kindly noted by Oscar Ross.
 198. BBC Radio 4 has a Friday-night comedy podcast that includes "The News Quiz" (a satiric look at the week's news) and uses a nicely Sherlockian image at its web-site; there have been no reports (so far) of anything Sherlockian on the podcast, but you can listen on-line at www.tinyurl.com/ya9hgmkr.
 199. The on-line A.V. Club (which bills itself as "pop culture obsessives writing for the pop culture") has some interesting "Watch This" reviews of older Sherlockian films <www.avclub.com>; search for [sherlock holmes].
 200. Alexander Orlov has reported an interesting web-site: the Cover Art Archive <www.tinyurl.com/yd86mzyj>; it's a joint project between the Internet Archive and MusicBrainz, and has images of (at the moment) more than 800,000 album covers, and an excellent search engine that works for titles and artists and types of music.
 201. Sherlock Holmes "looked in at Mecca" during the Great Hiatus, he told Watson (in "The Empty House"). Undoubtedly Mecca looked much the same then as it did in 1885, when it was photographed by Al-Sayyid Abd Al-Ghaffar; fifteen of his photographs will be offered at Sotheby's in London on May 15, and you can see an article about them at <www.tinyurl.com/y9w2cb4t>.
 202. "The Real Sherlock of Baker Street" was the headline on a Londonist report <www.tinyurl.com/y8oh42yb> on a City of Westminster plaque on York Terrace East, a five minute walk from Baker Street; it honors Dame Sheila Sherlock, a professor of medicine and a world authority on the liver and its diseases (she published hundreds of papers in scientific journals, and in 1951 was made the youngest female Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians). She was appointed a Dame in 1978, and then a Fellow of the Royal Society.
 203. Julian D. Corrington wrote about "Baker Street Weather" in The Saint Detective Magazine (Nov. 1957), but he was best known for his pioneering work in amateur microscopy and for founding the American Society of Amateur Microscopists in 1939. He also wrote about Sherlock Holmes and his use of the microscope in Nature Magazine (Oct. 1953) and in books published by Bausch & Lomb (1934) and McGraw-Hill (1957); Burt Wolder has discovered an interesting article by John Gustav Delly in Modern Microscopy (Aug. 14, 2013) on Corrington, his career, and his microscopes <www.tinyurl.com/ybdgwyho>.
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204. Apr 18 #5 Roger Llewellyn died on Apr. 17. He had a long theatrical career that included appearances as Inspector Lestrade (with Ron Moody as Sherlock Holmes) in Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988) and Sherlock Holmes in Christopher Martin's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1997). Roger also played Holmes (and many others parts) in David Stuart Davies' one-man shows "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!" (1999) and "Sherlock Holmes: The Death and Life" (2008) in world-wide tours. Excerpts from "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!" are available at YouTube, and audio recordings of both one-man shows from Big Finish <www.bigfinish.com>.
 205. The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will be at the Houston Museum of Natural Science through Sept. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/ya7r7rlw>, and then on display at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., Nov. 3 through May 27, 2019 <www.lsc.org>; it's a splendid exhibition, well worth a visit.
 206. Reported: MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse, is due from Titan Books in October; a sequel to their MYCROFT HOLMES (Jun 15 #2), it's set in 1872, when the brothers unintentionally investigating the same mystery as they pursue the reason behind the growing opium trade. There's a third book in the series scheduled for 2019.
 207. Mystery Scene, edited by Kate Stine <www.mysteryscenemag.com>, frequently offers Sherlockian content: issue 153 (winter 2018) has Michael Mallory's report on "The Remarkable Lives of Anthony Boucher" (he was an avid Sherlockian and an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars), Cathy Pickens' article about "Writers Turned Sleuths" (Arthur Conan Doyle and Erle Stanley Gardner), and reviews of Sherlockian books.
 208. "Sherlock Gnomes" had an opening weekend gross of \$10.6 million, according to the Box Office Mojo web-site, far behind the \$25.4-million opening weekend gross of "Gnomeo and Juliet" in 2011. As of Apr. 26, the film's total worldwide gross was \$58.6 million; the web-site estimates the film's production budget at \$59 million (the industry rule of thumb is that the studio gets half of the gross receipts). It should be noted that it isn't the only gnomish film you can see this year: there also is "Gnome Alone" (which premiered in Europe in 2017 but hasn't yet been released in the U.S.), with an official trailer available at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/ycycpnvf
 209. Vicki Delany's THE CAT OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Crooked Lane, 2018; 291 pp., \$26.99) is the third in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (the proprietor of the Sherlock bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (the proprietor of the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room), this time investigating the death of an actor scheduled to perform as Holmes in a local presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (and there are twists and turns, and a bit of romance, in the story). And there's a fourth book in the series coming up: "A Scandal in Scarlet".
 210. And there's late-breaking news: Mattias Boström won the Agatha Award (for best nonfiction) for his FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (Apr 17 #4); the award was announced at the Malice Domestic awards dinner in Bethesda on Apr. 28, and Mattias was there to accept the traditional appropriately-decorated ceramic teapot and deliver an artful and gracious acceptance speech. You can see him with his award at his Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/ya6y945x>.
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211. Apr 18 #6 Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller alternated as Frankenstein and the Creature in the National Theatre's production of "Frankenstein" in 2011, and the show was recorded and will be screened again in theaters in October. It was the first time they played the same

- character (they went on to perform as Sherlock Holmes on television), and it's well worth seeing the play twice, so that you can decide which actor is better in which role.
212. Michael Kuhn's "Sherlock Holmes und die Schnecken von Eastwick" [Schnecken are snails] is being performed at the Boulevardtheater in Dresden through May 12 <www.boulevardtheater.de>.
 213. "The Sherlock Project" (a new "immersive theatrical experience") is being presented by the PaperHouse Theatre at the FROCK Shop in Charlotte, N.C., through May 12 <www.paperhousetheatre.com>.
 214. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being done at the Waldon Arts Center in Fayetteville, Ark., through May 27 <www.theatre2.org>.
 215. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Stagehouse Theatre in El Cajon, Calif., May 10-19 <www.tinyurl.com/yab57n4b>.
 216. Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Stafford Gatehouse Theatre in Stafford, May 15-19 <www.staffordplayers.co.uk>.
 217. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at Chevalier College in Burradoo, N.S.W., May 23-26 <www.tinyurl.com/yao2azs7>.
 218. Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be performed at the Theatre in the Round in Minneapolis, Minn., June 1-24 <www.theatreintheround.org>.
 219. "Sherlock Holmes" (a new "comedy musical") will be performed at the Sörby Rundloge in Mjölby, Sweden, June 2-17 <www.soffteater.se>.
 220. Tal Aviezer's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Musgrave Ritual" will be performed at the Barton-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., June 2-10 <www.bartowpellmuseummansion.org>.
 221. The Chapterhouse Theatre Company will continue touring its "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on tour in England this summer, June 14 through Aug. 30 <www.chapterhouse.org>.
 222. The East Haddam Stage Company, based at Gillette Castle in Connecticut, has held auditions for this year's season, which will include an adaptation of "The Professor" (William Gillette's first comedy) July 7-Aug. 12, an original one-man presentation of "Yukitaka Osaki, William Gillette's Gentleman Valet" in September, and Ara Barlieb's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Christmas Goose" for the holidays.
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223. May 18 #1 "Dark Deeds in the Canon" is the title of the next Reichenbach Irregulars' conference in Switzerland, scheduled for May 31-June 4, 2019; their focus will be on Professor James Moriarty and Baron Adelbert Gruner. Details are available at their web-site <www.221b.ch>.
 224. "Elementary" has been renewed for a seventh season. Its ratings continue to decline (it's the least-watched of all of the CBS-TV dramas, according to a story in the Wall Street Journal), but it's profitable nevertheless, thanks to revenue from overseas, syndication, and a deal with Hulu.
 225. Sorry about that: the correct version of last month's newsletter report is: "Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" is the title of The Norwegian Explorers' next conference in Minneapolis, scheduled for Aug. 9-11, 2019, at the Graduate Hotel (the new name of the Commons Hotel), and there will be an evening reception on Aug. 8; you can enroll on their mailing list by contacting Julie McKuras <mike9750@aol.com>.
 226. Watson's Tin Box is hosting this year's "Scintillation of Scions" on June 8-9, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It is an entertaining gathering of both local and far-flung Sherlockians, and registration is now open <www.scintillation.org>.
 227. "Sherlock Gnomes" was released in Great Britain and Ireland on May 11, and Odeon Cinemas promoted the opening with an offer to give every child "the chance to grow their very own mini garden with our flowering seed paper!" <www.tinyurl.com/yd4rjl69>. The children, of course, will need to provide their own garden gnomes.
 228. And there's more promotion in Great Britain: Hovis has launched a "221b Bakery Street" campaign <www.tinyurl.com/y6uxacz3> www.tinyurl.com/y8atl66j that promotes their "Best of Both" bread loaves; prizes range from a family adventure in London to Sherlock Gnomes toast stamps.
 229. The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars will gather on June 24 in New Orleans, during the annual meeting of the American Library Association; Monica Schmidt will be their guest speaker (on "You Have Been on eBay, I Perceive: The Pathology of Sherlockian Collecting"), and more information is available from Marsha Pollak <mlpollak@icloud.com>.
 230. Etchings by James Ensor, a member of the XX Group, the "modern Belgian masters" whose pictures "entirely absorbed" Sherlock Holmes (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") were at auction this month at Christie's, and there's an interesting article about him at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yd6mlr28>.
 231. Congratulations to Russell Merritt, who has received the Denver Silent Film Festival's David Shepard Career Achievement Award. Russell is a member of the board of the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, an adjunct professor in the Department of Film & Media at the University of California Berkeley, and a leader in the restoration of two important silent films: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) and Carlyle Blackwell's "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929).
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232. May 18 #2 MYSTERY MOST GEOGRAPHICAL (Cabin John: Wildside Press, 2018; 349 pp., \$35.00) is the 13th Malice Domestic anthology, offering nice assortment of short stories and a foreword by Nancy Pickard (who received the Lifetime Achievement award at this year's Malice); one of the stories is Michael Robertson's "The Barrister's Clerk" an imaginative addition to his "Baker Street Letters" series about the London barristers who have their offices at Sherlock Holmes' address and are tasked with answering his mail. Wildside's web-site is at <www.wildsidepress.com>.
 233. Also from Wildside: Christopher Redmond's ABOUT BEING A SHERLOCKIAN (2017; 250 pp., \$14.99) is a sequel of sorts to his ABOUT SIXTY (Dec 16 #5): Chris has edited an anthology of sixty essays "celebrating the Sherlockian community" and in his introduction he explains just how easy (or difficult) it can be to define just what a Sherlockian is; the essays are by a delightful mix of authors, old hands and newcomers, who describe with great enthusiasm the many paths they followed in becoming Sherlockians.
 234. "He made the country down in Illinois," Lucy Ferrier said (in "A Study in Scarlet"); our postal service has issued a stamp honoring the 200th anniversary of statehood for Illinois.
 235. Karen Murdock has noted Matthew Walther's "The Man Who Knew Everything" in The Week (Apr. 25) <www.theweek.com/articles/763465>; it is a review of Rebecca Tope's new SABINE BARING-GOULD: THE MAN WHO TOLD A THOUSAND STORIES. The many things he wrote about included the folktales of Dartmoor, and he's a very important character in Laurie R. King's THE MOOR (1998), in which he's visited by Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes. Baring-Gould's grandson (William S. Baring-Gould), when he wrote his biography of Sherlock Holmes, used details from his grandfather's life in describing Holmes' early years. Sabine Baring-Gould lived at Lewtrenchard, near Dartmoor; his house now is a luxury hotel <www.lewtrenchard.co.uk> and you can visit his grave at the nearby Lewtrenchard Cemetery.

236. Alexander Orlov has reported a new adaptation of a Canonical story in which Holmes and Watson do not appear; an 18-minute video ("Violet") is available at Vimeo <www.vimeo.com/22871372>. There's also a Russian video "Seldon" <www.tinyurl.com/n4narya>, and the Indian film "Bees Saal Bad" inspired by "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/y894fae7>.
237. They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is set for Aug. 11. More information about the two-day excursion is available online at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/silverblaze2018.html>.
238. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LOST RADIO SCRIPTS (Little Falls: Purview Press, 2017; 396 pp., \$25.98), edited by Ian Dickerson, offers twelve scripts written by Denis Green and Leslie Charteris [as Bruce Taylor] from the Rathbone/Bruce 1944 radio series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (all of them from programs for which audio recordings are not known to exist); Dickerson discovered the scripts in Charteris' papers, and it's nice to have a chance to revisit the radio series. You can listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's interview with Dickerson at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" archive <www.tinyurl.com/y82pbko9>.

239. May 18 #3 Martin Edwards' THE STORY OF CLASSIC CRIME IN 100 BOOKS (London: British Library, 2017; 353 pp., £25.00) (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen Press, \$26.95) is a delightful companion to the "British Library Crime Classics" series that offers reprints of excellent novels and short stories; some of the anthologies include stories by Conan Doyle, and this book explores the history of crime fiction in novels published in the first half of the twentieth century (one of them, of course, is "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The book also is available in a trade-paperback edition to match the crime-classics series. And Edwards, recently asked what he would have added as the 101st title, confessed that there already are 102 novels in his book.
240. Cub Scouting, part of the Scouting Program of the Boy Scouts of America, offers Cubs belt loops (instead of merit badges), and Kate Karlson has reported an interesting Code of the Wolf elective adventure loop. They're available for \$1.49 at your neighborhood Scout Shop, and on-line at <www.scoutshop.org>; search for [619939]. And yes, in February the Boy Scouts of America announced their new name: Scouts BSA, recognizing the decision to admit young women as full-fledged Scouts. The Cub Scouts program already admits girls; now older girls will be able to join Scouts BSA and have an opportunity to advance to become Eagle Scouts. One hopes that eventually the Scouts BSA will offer a Sherlockian merit badge.
241. Mattias Boström, who last month won the Agatha Award (best nonfiction) for FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK at Malice Domestic, has been nominated for an Anthony Award (best critical/non-fiction book) at Bouchercon; winners will be announced at Bouchercon in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Sept. 8. Mattias also has received Der blaue Karfunkel from the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft at SherloCON in Saarbrücken, and the Tony & Freda Howlett Literary Award from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.
242. THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ILLUSTRATED AND ENHANCED BY N. R. REEKIE (2017) offers an imaginative approach to the Canon: there are more than 300 illustrations, including his own Rapidograph technical-pen artwork, and the 352-page book is available at eBay for £24.99 <www.tinyurl.com/y79ollmr>.
243. The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes, now at the Houston Museum of Natural Science <www.hmns.org>, has some added material. According to the Houston Chronicle <www.tinyurl.com/y7k2vs47>, the exhibits now include the curved pipe Robert Downey Jr. smoked and the pocket watch worn by Jude Law, the pink suitcase from Benedict Cumberbatch's "A Study in Pink", and a costume worn by Lucy Liu.
244. Conan Doyle wrote about the bare-knuckle boxer John Jackson, who appears in RODNEY STONE (Mar 18 #5), and there are other boxers in Conan Doyle's writings; one of them is William Abednego Thompson, known as Bendigo, who was honored in Conan Doyle's poem "Bendy's Sermon". According to the Nottingham Post <www.tinyurl.com/y8e6yydo>, a fund-raising campaign is underway to pay for a statue of Bendigo, who is buried in Nottingham. Alan Dance and David Field's novel BENDIGO: THE RIGHT FIST OF GOD (2016) is based on the life of "the most famous son of Nottingham since Robin Hood first ventured from the leafy glades of Sherwood Forest to taunt the Sheriff."

245. May 18 #4 Maria Konnikova, author of MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (2013), and then THE CONFIDENCE GAME: WHY WE FALL FOR IT...EVERY TIME (2016), began playing poker in late 2016 while working on a new book THE BIGGEST BLUFF, but she's earning so much in poker tournaments that the book likely won't be published until next year, according to a report in the N.Y. Post on May 3 <www.tinyurl.com/ya9m9wqn>; Maria's web-site is at <www.mariakonnikova.com>.
246. "A Strange Change Toy Featuring The Lost World" was made and sold by Mattel in the late 1960s, likely inspired by the film that starred Claude Rains as Professor Challenger (1960). There's a Wikipedia entry for the "Strange Change Machine" that describes the toy in detail: it offered pressed "shape memory" plastic figures of prehistoric animals, an "Expansion Chamber" with a heating element, and a "Compressor" (Wikipedia provides links to web-sites that have images and more information); it cost only \$1.50 in those good old days and seems to have been discontinued quickly because the toy was so dangerous to children who played with it. You can find it at eBay (for a lot more than \$1.50) and play with it now (carefully, of course).
247. The seventh running of the No Frills Silver Blaze will take place on Aug. 18 at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, N.J., and it's truly no frills: entrance fee \$5.00 (or \$3.00 for seniors), and bring your own food and drinks. The event is arranged by The Turf Builders of Baker Street, and more information is available from Peter McIntyre <pslpete@optonline.net>.
248. The Japanese eight-episode series "Miss Sherlock" (produced by HBO Asia and Hulu Japan) (Dec 17 #6) began its run on Apr. 27, and the series has a web-site at <www.hboasia.com/HBO/en-ph/shows/miss-sherlock>. You can watch the series (with English subtitles) at <www.dailymotion.com>.
249. Raymond C. Murray died on Apr. 8. He was a leader in the field of forensic geology (the use of soil and mineral evidence in law enforcement) and wrote two of the field's standard textbooks, FORENSIC GEOLOGY (1975 and 1992) and EVIDENCE FROM THE EARTH: FORENSIC GEOLOGY AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION (2004 and 2011), with due credit to Sherlock Holmes for his geological expertise; you can learn more about Ray's work at <www.forensicgeology.net>.
250. C. J. Carter-Stephenson's "Back of the Bookshelf" is a monthly podcast offering his narration of classic short fiction, and it was launched with Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" available in both video and audio <www.carter-stephenson.co.uk/botb.html>.
251. Congratulations to Andrew Jay Peck, who began his legal career in 1978 and was appointed U.S. magistrate judge for the Southern District of New York in 1995; he retired from the bench in February and has joined the law firm DLA Piper as a senior counsel, and you can read about his career in an American Bar Association article at <www.tinyurl.com/yck3l98q> (there's also a podcast interview). Andy was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article in The Baker Street Journal in 1972, joined the Baker Street Irregulars in 1973 (as "Inspector Baynes, Surrey Constabulary"), and plans to continue his pursuit of Sherlock Holmes (and the N.Y. Yankees).

252. May 18 #5 Ashley Polasek has edited A PLUM ASSIGNMENT: DISCOURSE ON P. G. WODEHOUSE AND HIS WORLD (Winch and Clutterbuck, 2018), the discourse being by Curtis Armstrong and Elliott Milstein; the book isn't Sherlockian but you can listen to the three of them talk about Wodehouse, and his enthusiasm for Conan Doyle and Holmes, with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder in a podcast at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/yau22ldl>.

253. There's a race horse named Sherlock Holmes, and the [Melbourne] Herald Sun had a picture of him <www.tinyurl.com/y7gn68v8> winning a race at Flemington; the chestnut gelding, born in Ireland, is doing well in Australia, and you can see video of him winning the race at <www.tinyurl.com/y82nl5og>.
254. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Carnegie's, in the Peery Hotel, in Salt Lake City on May 23, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, welcomed by members of The PsiKeys of Sherlock and The Avenging Angels. Our next meetings will be on Nov. 7 in Indianapolis, and on May 22, 2019, in San Antonio.
255. There is a definitely-firm and reliable rumor that there's a third Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film in the works. According to the Hollywood Reporter (May 7), Warner Bros. and Village Roadshow Pictures have announced that "Sherlock Holmes 3" will open in theaters Christmas Day in 2020. All that's needed now is a script and a director and a start of production.
256. Further to the item about Grace Humiston, a lawyer-turned-investigator in 1917 who was known as "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" and was featured in a recent episode of the NBC-TV series "Timeless" (Mar 18 #3), Rachel Kaufman wrote about the episode at the Smithsonian blog <www.tinyurl.com/y9pys2oa>.
257. Sundance TV plans an eight-episode international drama series based on Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE, starring John Turturro as the Franciscan monk William of Baskerville, Damian Hardung as Adso of Melk, and Rupert Everett as inquisitor Bernard Gui; the book, set in Italy in 1327, nevertheless was nicely Sherlockian.
258. It's a bit late for this year, but in plenty of time for next year: Sherlock Holmes Day is celebrated on May 22. It's an event established in 2013 by the forum and games site Gaia Online, and there's much more information available on-line at <www.daysoftheyear.com/days/sherlock-holmes-day>.
259. Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss and Benedict Cumberbatch celebrated Sherlock Holmes Day on-line with video and audio teasers for their "Sherlock" series at the BBC America web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y92csyc3>.
260. Margalit Fox's CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (New York: Random House, 2018; 352 pp., \$27.00) has the subtitle "the true story of a sensational British murder, a quest for justice, and the world's most famous detective writer," and it's a carefully-researched and well-written account of the Oscar Slater case; the author has discovered new and interesting information about the case, and she offers a convincing explanation of why the police and the government were so determined to convict an innocent man.

261. May 18 #6 English Heritage has announced that Peter Cushing will be honored with a blue plaque at his childhood home in Croydon; the announcement was made on May 4 (Star Wars Day) and the plaque will be unveiled in July. Roger Johnson has noted that May 4 also is Reichenbach Day (when Holmes and Moriarty fought to the death in Switzerland); Cushing was Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), a BBC television series (1968), and "The Masks of Death" (1984). He also played Conan Doyle in a television film "The Great Houdinis" (1976).
262. For those who may be wondering why May 4 is Star Wars Day (May 18 #1): the celebration was created by fans of the series, who happily say "May the 4th be with you." The announcement was made on Star Wars Day in recognition of Cushing's memorable performance at the Grand Moff Tarkin in the first "Star Wars" film in 1977.
263. Reported: Leslie S. Klinger's IN THE SHADOW OF AGATHA CHRISTIE (New York: Pegasus, 2018; 356 pp., \$25.95) is subtitled "classic crime fiction by forgotten female writers: 1850-1917" and offers 16 stories that include Carolyn Wells' 1915 Sherlockian burlesque "The Adventure of the Clothes-Line".
264. Fans of Scooby-Doo will welcome the news that "Scooby-Doo and Guess Who?" is being developed for a 2019 launch on Boomerang's digital-streaming service; episodes of the animated series will feature characters such as Batman, the Flash, Wonder Woman, and Sherlock Holmes.
265. When in Middlesbrough (in North Yorkshire): the Orange Pip Market, a monthly artisan food market is on Baker Street <www.orangepipmarket.com>; it was founded in 2014 and named for the Sherlock Holmes story. You can also stop in at the local pub The Twisted Lip <www.thetwistedlip.co.uk>.
266. Nancy Springer's THE CASE OF THE GYPSY GOOD-BYE (New York: Philomel, 2010; 176 pp., \$14.99) is the sixth and last in her pleasant series about Enola Holmes, the 14-year-old younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock; she's hiding from them in London and solving mysteries on her own. All of the books are available in trade paperbacks from Puffin (\$6.99), and the series has been in the news because Legendary Entertainment has signed the British actor-model Millie Bobby Brown to star in and produce feature films based on the series. There's more information about Enola Holmes, and Nancy Springer, at the author's web-site <www.nancyspringer.com>, and about Millie Bobby Brown at Wikipedia and elsewhere on the Internet.
267. Overwatch, a team-based multiplayer first-person shooter video game developed and published by Blizzard Entertainment <www.playoverwatch.com/en-us>, allows players to purchase "skins" that change the outfit or color scheme of the players' heroes, and one of the anniversary skins offers McCree the opportunity to dress in a Sherlockian costume that also fits support hero Ana; you can see Ana wearing the skin, and explore Overwatch, at the DBLTAP web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ydbeqats>.
268. BRAIN GAMES is a series of puzzle books, and their SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLES (Morton Grove: Publications International, 2017; 198 pp. \$12.98) has more than "100 cerebral challenges inspired by the world's greatest detective" (standard puzzles, with many tied to the Canon).

269. May 18 #7 Patricia Morison died on May 20. She had a long career both as a singer (she starred in "Kiss Me Kate" on Broadway in 1948 and then in "The King and I" on Broadway and on tour) and as an actor (in films and on television) and is best-known to Sherlockians as the evil Mrs. Hilda Courtney in Basil Rathbone's "Dressed to Kill" (1946).
270. The new block-buster film "Avengers: Infinity War" stars Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man) and Benedict Cumberbatch (Doctor Strange), who have both played Sherlock Holmes, but there are no allusions to that in the movie. According to Comic Book Resources <www.tinyurl.com/y97dbj44>, directors Joe and Anthony Russo believed that jokes about the character connection would have been "too obvious."
271. The East Haddam Stage Company, which is based at Gillette Castle in Connecticut, will be on tour with its radio drama "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" in the fall <www.ehsco.org>.
272. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Morris-Jumel Mansion in New York, N.Y., June 8-24 <www.morrisjumel.org>.
273. Ray Crew's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Avenging Angels" is scheduled at the Elementary Theatre in Cape May, N.J., June 21-Sept. 29, during the Sherlock & Shakespeare Festival <www.capemaymac.org>.
274. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is due at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., June 22-July 22 <www.alleytheatre.org>; at the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 25-Oct. 21 <www.irtlive.com>; and at the North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Calif., Oct. 17-Nov. 11 <www.northcoastrep.org>.

275. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Tim Churchill and Catherine O'Reilly) is scheduled at the Stoke Repertory Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., July 31-Aug. 4 <www.stokerep.info>.
 276. The Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at La Belle Angèle in Edinburgh, Aug. 2-26 <www.improvsherlock.com>.
 277. Richard Lavin's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Impaled Whaler" is due at Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Aug. 10-25; web-site at <www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas>.
 278. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Krevsky Center in Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 7-16 www.theatreharrisburg.com>.
 279. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" is due at the Huntington Avenue Theatre in Boston, Mass., Sept. 28-Oct. 28 <www.huntingtontheatre.org>.
 280. "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized from Nicholas Meyer's novel by Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge) will be performed at the Little Lake Theatre in Canonsburg, Pa., Oct. 11-27 <www.littlelake.org>.
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281. Jun 18 #1 The mid-year letter from Mike Whelan ("Wiggins" of the Baker Street Irregulars) included the news that the BSI Archive, formerly at the Houghton Library at Harvard University, is being transferred to the Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind.; the Lilly Library already has an impressive Sherlockian and Doylean collection, and now also houses the archive of the Mystery Writers of America.
 282. There also was news of the next BSI conference, set for 2020, will have as its theme "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" (details to be announced later), Next year's birthday festivities in New York will be held on Jan. 9-13, and the Distinguished Speaker Lecture on Jan. 10 will feature director and playwright Ken Ludwig, author of "Postmortem", "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays", and "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery".
 283. Russian war correspondent Arkady Babchenko, who fled Russia for Ukraine in 2017, turned up at a press conference in Kiev last month, one day after he had been reported killed; he explained that the announcement that his wife had found his body after he had been shot several times at the entrance to his apartment in Kiev was intended to help Ukraine's security services foil a real plot against his life. All this is of possible interest to readers of this newsletter because Anton Geraschenko, a member of Ukraine's parliament, then said that "Sherlock Holmes successfully used the method of staging his own death for the effective investigation on complex and intricate crimes, no matter how painful it was for his family and Dr. Watson."
 284. Benoit Guilielmo has launched an on-line collection of Sherlockian articles from the 1930s (many of them reprinted for the first time), accompanied by some modern commentary on what he calls the Golden Age of Sherlockian scholarship (1927-1934), at <www.earlysherlockiana.blogspot.fr>. It's nicely done, and an opportunity to see what the Sherlockian world once was like.
 285. The manuscript of "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper" will be at auction at Sotheby's in London on July 10, estimated at £10,000-£15,000. There is a nice entry about the manuscript at Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/spedegues-dropper-2018.htm>.
 286. Howard Ostrom has found another example of the wonders of digitization: the Nov. 1906 supplement to the Urban Films catalog, with a three-page synopsis of Vitagraph's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1905); it's on-line at <www.lukemckernan.com/2018/02/15/the-world-in-1906> [pages 61-63]. Leslie S. Klinger wrote about the film in The Baker Street Journal, June 1998.
 287. Sherlock Bones Lost 'N Hound Dog Recovery has a Facebook page but no web-site: they're "a local group of animal lovers dedicated to reuniting owners with their lost furies" in and around Buffalo, N.Y.
 288. "Hooray for Meghan Markle, a Very Modern Adventuress" was the headline on a story by Julie Burchill in the Spectator on Apr. 28, reported by Evy Herzog (who presides over The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes). The word "adventuress" is rarely encountered today, other than in the Canon and at Sherlockian gatherings; you can read the article at <www.tinyurl.com/yd7d9ot4>.
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289. Jun 18 #2 Erik Ofgang's GILLETTE CASTLE: A HISTORY (Charleston: History Press, 2017; 139 pp., \$21.99) is a nicely readable and attractively illustrated guide to William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn., with discussion of Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and Gillette himself, but the main focus is on the Castle and its history.
 290. A "Sherlock Holmes" electric locomotive was used on the Metropolitan Line in London from the early 1920s until it was withdrawn from service in 1962, but now there's a new one, christened at a naming ceremony at the Quainton Road Station on Apr. 29, and video of the ceremony is available at YouTube; search for [quainton sherlock holmes].
 291. All that remains of the first locomotive are the nameplates, which are fortunately preserved in Sherlockian collections, but a battery-powered scale model (in 7¼-inch gauge, which means it will run on rails 7¼ inches apart) was at auction at Dreweatts in England in 2013, with an estimate of £1,000-£1,500. It sold for £2,728 (including the buyer's premium). Of course there is a 7¼-inch Gauge Society, with a web-site <www.sevenandaquarter.org> for those who enjoy riding on (rather than in) these attractive trains, and you can do exactly that in Great Britain, Europe, and North America, as noted in the Club Directory at the web-site.
 292. The winners of this year's Audie Awards (from the Audio Publishers Association) included Stephen Fry's recording of the Sherlock Holmes stories (for excellence in production); the recording is available from Audio Studios at <www.audible.com>.
 293. THE CROWN JEWEL MYSTERY, by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley (Wilton Press, 2017; 109 pp., \$5.98), a prequel to their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series, brings Lucy to London for the first time, hoping to determine the identity of her mysterious benefactor and winding up on the scene of a bank robbery; the novella is both imaginative and fast-paced, and the series has a web-site at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.
 294. Earlier novels in the series include REMEMBER, REMEMBER (2017; 346 pp.) and THE JUBILEE PROBLEM (2017; 407 pp.) (each \$12.99); Lucy discovers who her mysterious father and mother are, and is involved in investigating two interesting mysteries, as well as some romance.
 295. The restored version of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929) received a warm reception at the San Francisco Silent Film Festival this month, and there are reports that a commercial DVD will be available sooner rather than later; in the meantime, Danill Dubshin has reported, you can watch clips from the film uploaded by Rob Byrne to Vimeo: go to <www.vimeo.com> and search for [der hund von baskerville] to see how splendid the restoration is.
 296. "Sherlock: The Game Is Now" <www.sherlockgame.com> is billed as "the only official Sherlock Holmes Escape Game, a 90-minute immersive experience for teams of 4-6 people," and it will open in London on Oct. 23 and run through Feb. 24, with tickets costing £54 per person. It's organized by Time Run and "Sherlock" creators Steve Moffat and Mark Gatiss, and you can see some of Time Run's other escape games at <www.time-run.com>.
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297. Jun 18 #3 Martyn Sutton is the proprietor of Uncle Jeremy's Household, a gift shop in Ingleton <www.unclejeremy.com> that celebrates the connections of Sherlock Holmes to the Yorkshire Dales; he believes that the name of Sherlock Holmes was inspired by Conan Doyle's visits to the region (he married his first wife Louise Hawkins there in 1885, the same year his short story "Uncle Jeremy's Household" was published). One of their

- Sherlock Holmes Teddy Bears will be the prize in the "This is Ingleton" competition in July at <www.facebook.com/VisitIngleton>; the contest is open to anyone, anywhere, who answers a simple question to qualify for the end-of-the-month drawing.
298. The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps honoring the 50th anniversary of the BBC's long-running television series "Dad's Army" that was broadcast from 1968 to 1977. Two of the stamps show Arthur Lowe as Capt. George Mainwaring and John Le Mesurier as Sgt. Arthur Wilson; if the actors look familiar, it's because Arthur Lowe played Dr. William Watson in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" (1977), while John Le Mesurier was Eduardo Lucas in "The Second Stain" in the Alan Wheatley television series (1951), Barrymore in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and Lord Redcliff in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
 299. Rob Nunn has been posting to his "Interesting Though Elementary" blog since June 2017 <www.interestingthoughelementary.blogspot.com>. It's imaginative as well as interesting, with a mix of essays and interviews.
 300. Bill Peschel's "223B Casebook Series" continues, offering his survey of the many parodies and pastiches published in newspapers, magazines, and books, reprinted with footnotes and brief accounts of what Conan Doyle was doing each year. The latest volumes are SHERLOCK HOLMES: GREAT WAR PARODIES AND PASTICHES I: 1910-1914 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2017; 365 pp.) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: JAZZ AGE PARODIES AND PASTICHES I: 1920-1924 (2018; 352 pp.) (each \$15.99), and both volumes include one of his own pastiches, in which Mark Twain reports on his encounters with Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes. Bill's web-site is at <www.peschelpress.com>.
 301. It's likely far too late for souvenir-hunting, but Del Taco kindly offered free Sherlock Holmes lunch bags with the purchase of any Kid Loco Meal (a kid's quesadilla, fries, drink and a treat); their web-site allows you to find your nearest Del Taco <www.tinyurl.com/y873mnme>.
 302. The latest catalog from the BBC Shop has as always a page of Sherlockiana, including a Sherlock Holmes Pewter Pocket Watch, just the thing for those who, like Holmes, don't wear a wristwatch <www.tinyurl.com/y9p7td5b>.
 303. Ray Betzner continues to find new and interesting material for his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com>, which now includes entries on "Where are the missing pages of Starrett's autobiography?" and a new translation of his classic sonnet "221B"; the new translation, handsomely printed and bound, is available the Atelier Typographique de la Cité in Switzerland for CHF40.00 <www.ateliertypo.tictail.com/product/221b>.
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304. Jun 18 #4 "With Landmark UK Embassy Planned for East London, China Rides the River of History Full Circle" was the headline on a story in the South China Morning Post on June 05 <www.tinyurl.com/y98b82hs> about a new Chinese embassy that will be on the site of the old Royal Mint. The article noted that the East End was home to London's first Chinatown, and that the area's opium dens were legendary: "It was in one such establishment in Limehouse that Sherlock Holmes found Dr. Watson" in "The Man with the Twisted Lip". The Royal Mint moved to Wales in 1975, and (yes indeed) the South China Morning Post was quite careless about who found whom in the Bar of Gold.
 305. Jennie Paton found a video demonstration <www.tinyurl.com/yadndn8p> of how easy it is to use the Mr. Sherlock lock-picking tool set, which comes with a full set of lock picks and a transparent padlock that helps you see what you're doing.
 306. YOUNG PUFFIN'S WONDERFULLY GRAND MYSTERY is a delightful children's carousel-bound pop-up book created by Yekaterina Komarovskaya and Mike Ficarra: Young Puffins wears Sherlockian costume while investigating a mystery that unfolds (literally) as one turns the pages to read a story that's both imaginative and amusing. It was a successful Kickstarter project and now is available to everyone (\$31.00); just go to <www.youngpuffin.com> to see a demonstration of how the books works. Young Puffin himself also is available as a plushie (\$20.00), along with other merchandise.
 307. RiffTrax offers a download of the colorized version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Woman in Green" (1945) with commentary by Mystery Science Theater 3000 stars Bridget Nelson and Mary Jo Pehl (\$9.99) at <www.rifftrax.com>; needless to say, they don't take the movie seriously.
 308. Holmes Fest is now an annual event in Portsmouth: this year's celebration began on June 27 and runs through July 14, with a wide variety of goings-on <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk/holmesfest>.
 309. They're off and running at Laurel Park in Maryland, where Greg Ruby has arranged for The Silver Blaze (Southern Division) on July 22. You can read all about it at the Facebook page for the event, and there's more information available from Greg at <greg@fourthgarriedeb.com>.
 310. Royal Books is offering an early treatment of the script for "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929) for \$4,500 <www.tinyurl.com/y9shlpb4>; written by F. Hugh Herbert, it differs substantially from the finished film, and does not contain the now-classic statement "Elementary, my dear Watson" (spoken by Clive Brook in the film when it was released). It was the first talking Sherlock Holmes film, and the first known instance of Holmes actually saying the line (William Gillette often is credited as the first, but the line does not appear in any known script of his play, and no one has reported a contemporary newspaper or magazine that mentions Gillette saying it).
 311. "Anything Goes--on ISLAND OF THE MAD" is an amusing book trailer promoting the latest volume in Laurie R. King's series about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes (Apr 18 #2) <www.tinyurl.com/ydxlcqwb>. That's not Cole Porter singing, but Michael Meketa III does well with his cover of the song.
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312. Jun 18 #5 "To review the books, monographs, films, and other, more ad-hoc projects inspired by Holmes today is not to note a revival of interest, but simply to let down a bucket into a bottomless well." That's according to Christopher Sandford in HOUDINI AND CONAN DOYLE (London: Duckworth Overlook, 2011; 282 pp.).
 313. Excerpts from Jeffrey Hatcher's imaginative play were read during the Baker Street Irregulars' "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" conference in 2016 in Chautauqua, and the play premiered in 2017 in Tucson, Ariz., and has had other productions since then; the script has now been published by the Dramatists Play Service (\$9.00) <www.tinyurl.com/yaxbwm7y>, and you can read a sample at their web-site.
 314. It would have pleased the late Herman Beerman and other members of the Sir James Saunders Society: "Had Sherlock Holmes Gone into Medicine, He'd Have Been a Dermatologist" is the headline on Phil Whitaker's article in the New Statesman on Mar. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/y94b8vcc>.
 315. Records by Mail <www.recordsbymail.com>, launched in 1974, now has an 8000-square-foot warehouse with more than 2 million vinyl LPs and 45s; searching for [sherlock holmes] turns up a few interesting items, and of course there is a lot more material for anyone interested in old records.
 316. Cynthia Ward's THE ADVENTURE OF THE INCOGNITA COUNTESS (Seattle: Aqueduct, 2017; 110 pp., \$12.00), is part of a "conversation pieces" series of feminist science fiction; Lucy Harker is Dracula's dhampir daughter and a British intelligence agent who encounters dangerous foes on board the Titanic; the book's Sherlockian only for occasional mentions of Mycroft as head of Britain's secret service.
 317. Karen Murdock noted a letter to the editor in the Chicago Tribune on June 3 about "bringing the cane back into style" that mentioned that "you can even learn single-stick cane-fighting (like Sherlock Holmes) at the Forteza Fitness, a local gymnasium." Forteza Fitness also is the home of the Bartitsu Club of Chicago <www.bartitsuclubofchicago.com>.

318. "Comedy Playhouse" was a long-running British 30-minute television series broadcast by BBC-1 from 1961 to 1975; many episodes graduated to their own series, but among those that didn't was "Elementary, My Dear Watson" (1973) with John Cleese as Sherlock Holmes and Willie Rushton as Dr. Watson. As with so much long-lost television, a YouTube user has come to the rescue: you can watch the program at <www.tinyurl.com/ycgb59ux>.
319. Leslie Katz continues to make his Sherlockian scholarship available at the Social Science Research Network; his latest article is "The Game Is a Hand: Traditional Tabletop Games in the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" and you can read or download all of his articles) at <www.ssrn.com/author=1164057>.
320. Mattias Boström, whose FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK has already been nominated for an Anthony Award (best critical/non-fiction book) at Bouchercon; also has been nominated for a Macavity Award (best mystery-related nonfiction) from Mystery Readers International; the winners of both awards will be announced at Bouchercon in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Sept. 8.

321. Jun 18 #6 The second issue of The Newspapers (it's an "Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana" that Greg Ruby edits for The Sherlockians of Baltimore) has been published, with 136 pp. of toasts, poems, articles, and much more, many by members of the SOB's www.tinyurl.com/SOB2018Newspapers (\$20.00). It focuses on material from Baltimore newspapers, and about Baltimore, but Greg casts his net widely to include Evelyn Herzog's account of the history of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, plus Ross E. Davies' investigation of the history of the first Sherlock Holmes game (the Parker Brothers card game that was launched in 1904).
322. Further to the earlier report (Aug 14 #2) about the Mars 2020 Rover and its Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals, Jeff Dow notes that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has a new and colorful web-site about SHERLOC and its Wide Angle Topographic Sensor for Operations and eNginEering (yes, that's WATSON) at <www.tinyurl.com/ybvkgqoj>.
323. "Save the date," says Susan Diamond: the 59th annual running of the Silver Blaze in Chicago will be on Oct. 20 at the Hawthorne Race Course. You can enroll on her mailing list at <szdiamond@comcast.net>.
324. Another early Sherlockian film has turned up at YouTube, reported by Jennie Paton. "Sherlock Holmes i Bondefangerklør" (1910) features Otto Lagoni as Holmes, and is one of the Danish silent films made by Nordisk (and the only one known to have survived) <www.tinyurl.com/ybocm6w8>; the title is "Sherock Holmes in the Claws of the Confidence Men" in English.
325. Wikipedia has a web-page for "Hat" <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/hat> with illustrated entries for hats that range from the Ascot cap to the Zuchetto; one of the hats is the Deerstalker, with a mention of Sherlock Holmes.
326. Claire O'Dell's A STUDY IN HONOR (New York: Harper Voyager, 2018; 294 pp., \$15.99) reimagines Holmes and Watson in a feminist thriller set in a near-future Washington during the next Civil War; the protagonists are Dr. Janet Watson and covert agent Sara Holmes, both black LGBT+ women, engaged in a battle against both villainy and bureaucracy.
327. Greg Ruby discovered two amusing television commercials from 1970 and 1971 for Esso Home Comfort; available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y7lpcnut> and <www.tinyurl.com/ycgyecbh>.
328. EL GOS DEL BASKERVILLES is Catalan translation published by Vicens-Vives in Barcelona in 2013, with striking artwork by Bulgarian artist Iassen Ghiuselev; you can view the artwork at his web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7d2mbxs>, and order the book from the publisher or (possibly) at www.abebooks.com>. Some of the original artwork is available from the artist.
329. In case you've wondered about how important Sherlock Holmes truly is, Sidney Paget's original watercolor of "Fishing Boats on the Shoreline" sold at auction this month for £160 <www.tinyurl.com/y7r2rqag>. In 2004 his original pen and ink and wash drawing of "The death of Sherlock Holmes" was sold at auction for \$220,000. Randall Stock has a nice (and nicely illustrated) census of Sidney Paget paintings at <www.tinyurl.com/y8hd6fxo>.

330. Jun 18 #7 "Revision, My Dear Watson" (episode 146 on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog) <www.tinyurl.com/y9765sbh> offers Nick Martorelli, interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder; Nick suggests that Irene Adler was the Boba Fett of the Sherlock Holmes stories (and explains this for those who are fans of "Star Wars" and those who aren't), and has much more to say about the four long stories in the Canon. Scott and Burt have started providing a transcript of each of the podcasts; a few of them are available now, and they're asking for assistance in keeping the worthy project going.
331. Deadline Hollywood reports that the release date for "Holmes & Watson" (the new comedy that stars Will Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson) has been postponed once more: it's now scheduled for Dec. 21.
332. The Mount Nelson in Capetown is one of six "hotels with pasts as amazing as the amenities," Cator Sparks blogged on May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/yddwul3j>, noting that the Prince of Wales and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle both stayed at the hotel in 1925. According to Brian Pugh's A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (2012), Conan Doyle stayed at The Mount Nelson twice (in 1900 and 1928). There's no mention of Conan Doyle in Spark's entry for the Mena House in Egypt, but Conan Doyle did stay there, in 1895.
333. David Marcum has edited SHERLOCK HOLMES: BEFORE BAKER STREET for Belanger Books (2017, 356 pp., \$19.95); it's an anthology of stories from the years before Holmes met Watson and moved into quarters at 221B. The publisher's web-site is at www.belangerbooks.com>.
334. David also continues to edit his series of annual anthologies of pastiches for MX Publishing, with two new volumes added this year: THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: PART IX and PART X (406 pp. for 1875-1895 and 386 pp. for 1896-1919, \$44.95 each); they are excellent anthologies, and offer poems and radio scripts, as well as traditional pastiches, written by authors old hands and newcomers, and good writers as well. The MX web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.
335. Also from MX: Carl Heifetz's SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE (2018; 214 pp., \$14.95) is a collection of essays that reflect his expertise as a microbiologist and examine scientific aspects of the Canon; most have been published in journals with limited circulation, and it's nice to see them now more widely available. David Ruffle's WATSON: MY LIFE (2018; 148 pp., \$12.95) takes a new approach to the Canon, offering Dr. Watson's reminiscences about his life, loves, and career, and his association with Sherlock Holmes, as recorded in 1936.
336. And there's more from MX: Richard T. Ryan's THE DRUID OF DEATH (2018; 217 pp., \$28.95) has Holmes and Watson and Lestrade investigating a series of bizarre murders at Druid sites in England; his previous pastiches were THE VATICAN CAMEOS (2016) and THE STONE OF DESTINY (2017), and his new book includes a chapter from his upcoming THE MERCHANT OF MENACE. Michael Druce's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ROSWELL INCIDENT (2018; 211 pp., \$14.95) has Holmes and Watson alive and well in the 1940s and 1950s, involved with British and American and Russian intelligence and counter-intelligence in a plot that may or may not involve aliens and flying saucers.

337. Jun 18 #8 Last year the French company Black Box Boutique released a limited Blu-ray+DVD "Ultimate Collector's Edition" of the 1984 Japanese animated "Sherlock Hound" television series, in Japanese with French subtitles <www.blackbonesboutique.com/sherlockholmes.htm>, with a 200-page book of artwork. It cost €59.00, and is no longer available from the company, but completists may want to pursue it from other sources.

338. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the English Theatre in Frankfurt, Germany, through July 8 <www.english-theatre.de>, and then tours to the Deutsches Theater in Munich, Germany, July 17-21 <www.deutsches-theater.de>.
339. "A Scandal in Bohemia, Part One" (a radio play) is due at the Edge Theater in Chicago on July 22 <www.idlemuse.org>.
340. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Clove Creek Dinner Theater in Fishkill, N.Y., Aug. 2-19; their web-site's at <www.clovecreekdinnertheater.com>. Also at the Magenta Theatre in Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 7-22 <www.magentatheatre.com>; and at the Duluth Playhouse in Duluth, Minn., Oct. 4-14 <www.duluthplayhouse.org>; The Illyria Theatre Company will tour Oliver Grey's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Britain, Aug. 3-Sept. 7 <www.illyria.co.uk>.
341. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is due at the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Aug. 9-26 www.chambertheatre.com.
342. Timothy Evers' new play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Chelsea Market Theatre in Houston, Oct. 3-21 <www.classicaltheatre.org>.
343. "Legenda jménem Holmes" [A Legend Named Holmes] (a "cult musical" by Ondrej G. Brzobohaty) will premiere at the Musical Theater Karlín in Prague, Oct. 12-21 <www.vstupenky.ticket-art.cz>.
344. C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Masters of Crime" is scheduled at the Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., on Oct. 19-Nov. 4 <www.caminoplayhouse.org>.
345. The East Lynne Theater Company will perform Craig Wichman's radio-style adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Oct. 26-Nov. 2, and Mar. 15-17, 2019 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
346. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" has been scheduled by the St. Marys Community Players at the Town Hall Theatre in St. Marys, Ont., Nov. 1-11 <www.stmaryscommunityplayers.org>.
347. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Rosebud Theatre in Rosebud, Alta, from Nov. 2 to Dec. 23 <www.rosebudtheatre.com>.

Jul 18 #1

348. The new Baker Street Irregulars web-site is now live, and it's well worth exploring <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>; there are links to information about the BSI, The Baker Street Journal, the BSI Press, the BSI Trust, and BSI Events, and there's even video encouraging people to subscribe to (and contribute to) the BSJ <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsj-why-subscribe>. Scott Monty has an interesting blog about the BSI's history on the Internet at <www.tinyurl.com/ybj82f5n>.
349. Harlan Ellison died on June 28. He was a prolific and sometimes controversial author of science-fiction and fantasy whose work included short stories, novels, comics books, films, and television. In a 1987 lecture he explained that those in search of success must read and re-read only one essential book: the collected Sherlock Holmes stories. It's well worth reading his short story "He Who Grew Up Reading Sherlock Holmes" (dedicated to Ray Bradbury), published in the Subterranean Press magazine (summer 2014) and available on-line at the press's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc9zpp2o>.
350. Further to the item (May 18 #5) about the race horse named Sherlock Holmes, racing in Australia, there's also Sherlock, winner of the Kodlipet Plate at Mysore, India, on June 27 <www.tinyurl.com/ybqgj8v4>.
351. 221B Capital <www.221bcapital.com> describes itself as an "equity fund running long/short with a low net exposure." Jillian McIntyre, chief investment officer and portfolio manager, told TheStreet on May 3 that short sellers ought to be tasked with sniffing out fraud in any market, and that the firm is named after Sherlock Holmes' address <www.tinyurl.com/ybvjb8kv>.
352. Big Chief Studios offers a wide range of (expensive) figures of Holmes and Watson and Moriarty (from the "Sherlock" television series); their web-site is at <www.bigchiefstudios.co.uk/e-mailer/sherlock-special-offers>.
353. Allen Osborne has started work on compiling a data-base that will indicate which of the many Sherlockian societies have Investitures, and what the Investiture process involves, and he would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information to offer <ibish1854@mail.com>.
354. Herb Moskowitz has written an interesting and nicely illustrated monograph on William Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916); it's a 4.33-MB file, available by e-mail from Herb at <herbphilly@aol.com>.
355. Google Books offers access to their Ngram Viewer, which charts the frequencies of any set of comma-delimited search strings using a yearly count of occurrences in sources printed between 1500 and 2008; there are more than 5 million books in their data base. You can see how it works at their web-site <www.books.google.com/ngrams>, where, as reported by Mark Alberstat, their default sample search offers an interesting choice of names.
356. "To gnome is to love me" might be the slogan for Garden Fun, which offers a 14" Sherlock Gnomes (\$59.99) <www.gardenfun.com> that will be just as happy in your home as in your garden. Alas: the company doesn't offer an accompanying Watson Gnome. Sammi Mankini Gnome, however, is available (\$39.99).

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357. Jul 18 #2 A Hollywood Reporter story <www.tinyurl.com/y7q9429q> about the new "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" discussed earlier dinosaur films, including "The Lost World" (1925), and mentioned "King Kong" (1933), noting that the paper had reported that Radio Pictures and the Los Angeles police department were trying to find two men who had worked as extras on the "Kong" set but had not shown up for their pay checks. "Studio and cops are not worried about the pay checks, but about a machine gun that disappeared."
 358. Henry T. Folsom ("The Golden Pince-Nez") died on May 8. He graduated from Yale University, was president of the Folsom Arms Company, attended Berkeley Divinity School, and in 1957 was ordained, serving as rector of Episcopal churches in New Jersey, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. Intrigued by Canonical chronology, Hank published THROUGH THE YEARS AT BAKER STREET in 1962 and became a Baker Street Irregular in 1965. He won the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best paper in The Baker Street Journal in 1965 (appropriately titled "My Knowledge of the Bible Is a Trifle Rusty..."), received the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1986, and for many years presided over The Cornish Horrors in Connecticut.
 359. A story in the Sunday Times (Jan. 17, 2016) began "It has been home to the Doctor Who actor Tom Baker and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but the East Sussex town of Crowborough is about to welcome its most glamorous resident yet," and went on to describe Highwell House, and its new owner Kate Blanchett; you can see a photograph of the house at <www.tinyurl.com/y9ydzjad>. That led to a lot of publicity, from people who didn't read the Sunday Times all that carefully, saying that Conan Doyle actually lived in the house; as Abraham Lincoln once said, "if it's on the Internet it must be true."
 360. When in Spain: you can visit La Pipa <www.pipaclub.eu>. "This clandestine after-hours jazz club is located in a third-story flat in Barcelona's gothic quarter. The Sherlock Holmes themed watering hole is reached by ringing the correct buzzer and is open well into the early hours, making it perfect for post-club debriefs."
 361. Further to the report (Dec 17 #5) that the New Forest National Park Authority had rejected a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel had cited evidence that Conan Doyle had helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912), the

- Southern Daily Echo reported on July 3 that the developers had filed an appeal, hoping that a government-appointed planning inspector would allow the proposed development <www.tinyurl.com/yb8gdzvz>.
362. Javier Olivares' striking artwork for EL PERRO DO LOS BASKERVILLE (2011) is on display at his web-site <www.javierolivares.blogspot.com> [click on 2011 and scroll down].
363. "Hounds of the Bakersfield" is a song originally written by Bill Kirchen as a tribute to Merle Haggard, and Kirchen now plays, tours, and records with a group of the same name. Guitar Player Magazine has said that he's a "titan of the Telecaster," and a Google search for [hounds of the bakersfield] will turn up links to some of his tracks, including "When the Cowboy Sings" (in which he mentions Sherlock Holmes).
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364. Jul 18 #3 "Holmes, Sweet Holmes" (a 1968 episode of a Canadian 30-minute television series called "Telescope") presented "a visit with Adrian Conan Doyle" at the Château de Lucens, and it's now nicely available in three parts at YouTube; The first part is at <www.tinyurl.com/hllmqpj>, and links to the other two are at the right. There's a lot of Adrian, and a brief view of him driving his Ferrari 250 SWB. Sotheby's recently had an interesting article <www.tinyurl.com/yd8b8k2l> about a Ferrari 250 GTO that is coming up for auction in August, with an estimate of more than \$45 million. Charles Foley, who lived for a time at the Château, notes that the SWB [short wheel base] wasn't as beautiful as the GTO, but nevertheless was fast enough, with a top speed of 168 mph; Adrian sold his Ferrari in 1967 and bought a Lamborghini Miura, the first mid-engined supercar.
365. How many actors have played the role of Sherlock Holmes? Almost 4,000, according to the count in the latest version of Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" <www.nphl.co.uk/a-z-index.html>, which includes more than 8,000 images of the actors; the index also is available directly from Howard <howardostrom@gmail.com>, and he has compiled many other interesting data-bases, available at <www.nphl.co.uk/original-essays.html>.
366. Miklós Rózsa, a musician best known for his film scores, is credited with almost a hundred films; tracks from ten of them recorded by the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra (with Elmer Bernstein conducting) were released in 1987 on a CD ("Miklós Rózsa: Classic Film Music"). The CD has been reissued by Jay Records (\$12.99) <www.jayrecords.com/recording/miklos-rozsa>, and one of the CD tracks is the "English Waltz" from "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).
367. The colorful cover photograph of the spring 2018 issue of The Baker Street Journal shows an interesting bust of Sherlock Holmes, apparently created by M. G. Stead, who is cited in De Waal's THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES for "a poor likeness of the Literary Agent" [C17602] described as a ceramic figure edition from Finesse Studios in Cornwall, and dated 1987. There's an image of the cover of the BSJ at <www.tinyurl.com/y9t3pev4>; does anyone have any information about M. G. Stead, or the busts of Holmes or Conan Doyle?
368. Jennie Paton notes that "Shivering Sherlocks" (1948) is available at Vimeo <www.tinyurl.com/ycg82c4t>; it's a "Three Stooges" comedy, not Sherlockian except for the title. However there are two films that do have the Three Stooges in Sherlockian costume: "Horses' Collars" (1935) and "We Want Our Mummy" (1939); all three films are available at YouTube.
369. Ronald B. De Waal ("Lomax, the Sub-Librarian") died on July 3. His career as a humanities librarian and associate professor at Colorado State University led him to consider creating a bibliography, and, inspired by William S. Baring-Gould's article about The Baker Street Irregulars in Esquire in 1966, he chose "Sherlock Holmes" as his subject, launching a project that resulted in three volumes of a massive record of anything and everything related to the Great Detective: THE WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON (1974), celebrated at a "Sherlock Lives!" conference at CSU in 1975, THE INTERNATIONAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (1980), and THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (1994). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1984.
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370. Jul 18 #4 William Hobbs died on July 10. Born in Britain, he grew up in Australia, where he took up fencing and almost made the country's fencing squad for the Olympics in Melbourne; he also tried acting in repertory theater, and went on to a decades-long career as a fight director and stuntman. He was credited as fight arranger on Gene Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and (according to his obituary in the Hollywood Reporter) once said that Wilder was his most promising actor pupil.
371. Jack Benny had a long career on radio, and was heard as Sherlock Holmes on "The Chevrolet Show" on June 2, 1933 in the second of two episodes of "Who Killed Mr. X?"; you can listen to the show at <www.tinyurl.com/y9tpv7zs>.
372. Designed by Geeks <www.designedbygeeks.com> offers a variety of Sherlockian SVGs and other merchandise (including an imaginative "Mind Palace Mug"); in case you're wondering about what an SVG is, it's an abbreviation for Scalable Vector Graphics, an image format that's used with computerized sewing machines, electronic cutters, and standard computer printers (their other merchandise doesn't require technology more advanced than credit cards).
373. Greg Ruby reports that The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will hold a dinner meeting during the World's Fair of Money in Philadelphia on Aug. 15, and local (and visiting) Sherlockians are welcome; details are available from Greg <221b@fourthgarrideb.com>, and reservations are requested by Aug. 13.
374. Sam Hearn's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DISAPPEARING DIAMOND (New York: Scholastic, 2018; 176 pp., \$12.99) is written for young readers (ages 8-12) and attractively illustrated by the author; young John Watson arrives at Baker Street Academy in London as a new student and finds new friends, including Sherlock Holmes, Mrs. Hudson, and a hound named Baskerville, and of course there's a mystery to be solved. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET CURSE will be the next in the series.
375. Sherlock Holmes and Sigmund Freud worked together in Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (1974), and now Netflix has announced that it will make its first Austrian drama series "Freud" with the young neurologist in pursuit of a serial killer in Vienna, assisted by a medium named Fleur Salomé and a police detective named Kiss. The series will be made in German, but will be streamed in other countries, presumably dubbed or subtitled.
376. The seventh season of the CBS-TV series "Elementary" officially began production on July 11, but there's no word so far of how many episodes there will be, or when the season will premiere.
377. Joel Senter died on July 23. Joel and his wife Carolyn maintained Classic Specialties since the 1980s, selling (and sometimes publishing) a wide variety of Sherlockiana from their web-site, and in 2005 they launched their Sherlockian E-Times, a delightful electronic newsletter. Joel was an enthusiast in the world of old-time radio, and a stalwart member of the Tankerville Club of Cincinnati; in 2000 he was interviewed by Jim Hawkins for the web-site of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, and it's on-line at <www.nashvillescholars.net/cjsenterbio.html>.
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378. Jul 18 #5 The N.Y. Book Review has an interesting podcast, and a recent program ("True Crime Starring the Creator of Sherlock Holmes") presented Margalit Fox talking about her new book CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (May 18 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/yalmtwkd>. An earlier podcast ("From

- Brooklyn to the Gulag") included Michael Sims discussing his biography ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Mar 17 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/y984ku48>.
379. Kim Newman's PROFESSOR MORIARTY: THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES (Dec 11 #2) has been optioned for television by Playground Entertainment, Lenny Picker reports. According to Deadline Hollywood (July 23), Newman announced that the book is in development as a long-form (mini-series) TV project; Playground has produced series that include "Wolf Hall" (2015), "Howards End" (2017), and "Little Women" (2017). Newman's book offers seven stories told by Col. Moran about his association with Prof. Moriarty.
380. Cliff Goldfarb has kindly reported Gray Basnight's article "A Brief History of Cryptography in Crime Fiction" <www.tinyurl.com/ybp3f34m>; it's an interesting discussion of "Biblical codes, Holmesian ciphers, and Poe's Encryptions." The article appeared on Crime Reads <www.crimereads.com>, an intriguing web-site that has many other posts of interest; you can search for [sherlock] and [conan doyle] to see much more.
381. Alexander Orlov has noted a "Detective Sherlock Holmes: Hidden Object Game" from CrispApp <www.tinyurl.com/y9q4oqsu>, available (free) at the Microsoft store; you can download and play it in Russian and English. The artwork on the opening screen is Sherlockian; there may be more Sherlockian content to be discovered by those who are willing to play through it all. There are other Sherlock Holmes games available at the Microsoft store, as well as 40 apps; search for [sherlock holmes].
382. Swinhay House (the home of Charles Augustus Magnussen in the finale of the third series of "Sherlock"), will be open to the public for the first time ever, for just one day, on Sept. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/yd7yrmve>. The home of Sir David McMurtry, who has made the house available as part of Heritage Open Days this year, is in North Nibley in Gloucestershire.
383. John B. Koelle ("The Sussex Vampire") died on Apr. 25. Jack graduated from Swarthmore College and served in the U.S. Air Force; he retired in 1958 and worked as an electric engineer for many years. He enjoyed classical music, and diving and underwater photography, and was warm and welcoming to Sherlockians, Jack received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1965, and its Two-Shilling Award in 1986. He was a long-time member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, serving as the society's Head Mastiff from 1971 to 1984, and always was glad to report that the Sons were alive and drinking in Philadelphia.
384. Angela Misri's NO MATTER HOW IMPROBABLE (Fierce Ink, 2016; 243 pp., \$16.99) is the third in a series about the adventures of Portia Adams, who has discovered that she's the granddaughter of both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, and that her mysterious guardian and advisor is Irene Adler; Portia is pursuing her own career as a consulting detective in London. The author's web-site is at <www.aportiaadamsadventure.com>.
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385. Jul 18 #6 Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Powerhouse in New Canaan, Conn., through Aug. 11 <www.tpnc.org>, the Peninsula Theatre in Woy Woy, N.S.W., until Aug. 12 <www.woywoylt.com>, and at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre in Kalamazoo, Mich., through Aug. 20 <www.kazoocivic.com>. The play also is due at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia, Calif., Aug. 31-Sept. 30 <www.sierrarep.org>; at the Bay Area Harbour Playhouse in Dickinson, Tex., Oct. 12 through Nov. 4 <www.harbourtheatre.com>; and the Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth, N.H., Oct. 18-28 <www.seacoastrep.org>.
386. Victoria Hudson-Muir's new "The Dark Discovery of Sherlock Holmes" is being performed at the Bell Homestead National Historic Site, in Brantford, Ont., through Aug. 11 <www.branttheatre.com>.
387. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) is being performed at the Anacortes Community Theatre in Anacortes, Wash., through Aug. 18 <www.acttheatre.com>.
388. Robert Brock's marionette production "The Death & Life of Sherlock Holmes" is running at Lancaster Marionette Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., through Nov. 17 <www.lancastermarionette.org>.
389. "The Empty Glass: Sherlock Holmes Comes to Dover" will be performed at the Biggs Museum of American Art in Dover, Del., on Aug. 18; the web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/y7hyf434>.
390. David Elendune's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of Moriarty!" will be performed at the Langham Court Theatre in Victoria, B.C., Aug. 23-Sept. 1, during the Victoria Fringe <www.tinyurl.com/y7yk2fnf>.
391. The Blackeyed Theatre will be touring Nick Lane's new dramatization "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four" in Britain, Sept. 10-Apr. 6; the schedule is at <www.blackeyedtheatre.co.uk>.
392. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Lancaster Playhouse in White Stone, Va., Sept. 14-29; their web-site's at <www.lancasterplayers.org>.
393. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is due at the Long Beach Playhouse in Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 22-Oct. 20 <www.lbplayhouse.org>.
394. "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Eric Coble and based on the graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulton), has been scheduled at the Valley Center Stage in North Bend, Wash., Oct. 12-27; web-site at <www.valleycenterstage.org>.
395. "Das Sherlock Musical" is a German/British production that will premiere at the Urania Theater in Cologne on Nov. 7 <www.thesherlockmusical.com>, and then tour in Germany and Britain.
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396. Aug 18 #1 A hitherto unrecorded page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has turned up, from Chapter XIII, where Holmes is giving instructions to Sir Henry. It's in the hands of a private owner, and is for sale; details are available at item H37 in Randall Stock's census at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9c5evqa>.
397. Conan Doyle's Colt .38 semi-automatic pistol will be offered at auction on Sept. 20 at Holts Auctioneers in the U.K., estimated at £4,000-£6,000. It has an interesting provenance: first owned by Conan Doyle's brother Innes, it likely came to Conan Doyle from Innes' widow Clara, and was one of two pistols placed in his London solicitors' safe deposit box in 1921, when the Firearms Act first became law, and apparently forgo tten after he died. Details will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/y9o9kkoy>.
398. Bob Terry, who has been collecting Sherlockiana and Doyleana for decades, is selling some of his treasures at Heritage Auctions on Sept. 13, including a complete run of the Sherlock Holmes stories in single issues of The Strand Magazine, a delightful copy of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine (with "The Sign of the Four"), and much more; go to <www.ha.com> and search for "bob terry" (in quotes).
399. "The Great American Read" is an eight-part series launched by PBS-TV in May <www.tinyurl.com/yd6or5I3>, based on their list of America's 100 best-loved novels; viewers will be able to vote on their favorites (the grand finale is to air in October); THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES did not make the list, but Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME did.

400. Howard Ostrom has noted an interesting article at the culturebox web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ycrcyq4p> about an exhibition at the Cheverny chateau in Loir-et-Cher in France, where you can see full-size figures of Scooby-Doo, Hercule Poirot, John Steed, Colombo, and Sherlock Holmes, all created with Legos; the article's in French, with a colorful image showing Holmes.
401. Planning ahead: the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York will be on Jan. 9-13, with The Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner on Jan. 11; the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will be on Jan. 19.
402. "Harrods is celebrating rarity in all its guises via a curated list of Rare Finds," the store announced this month, one of the rare finds being an Arthur Conan Doyle Goyard Trunk <www.tinyurl.com/y7e875u4>, one of only seven ever made (one of which has been lost); two of the trunks are owned by Goyard, and one of those was exhibited in New York two years ago (Nov 16 #5). This one, from a private collection, seems to have been sold (the price was £96,000); no one seems to know which of the seven trunks was the one that was commissioned by Conan Doyle.
403. Phillip Bergem has updated his two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean films and television programs, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles; they're available by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>, and at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>.

404. Aug 18 #2 "I'll play Sherlock Holmes the detective," George Robey sang in the second verse of "Bang Went the Chance of a Lifetime" (which he wrote with Sax Rohmer in 1908); Robey was known as one of the greatest music-hall performers, and Rohmer certainly is best known as the creator of Dr. Fu Manchu. Howard Ostrom has reported that you can hear Robey perform the song at <www.tinyurl.com/y7mfvtpz>; it will be helpful if you also have a print-out of the lyrics, available at <www.tinyurl.com/yaw2jy7c>. Robey earlier played Sherlock Holmes in a revue at the Tivoli in London in 1902.
405. For the completists: there was a British movie tie-in edition of Mitch Cullin's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (Apr 05 #6) published by Canongate in 2015 as MR. HOLMES, with a movie-poster cover showing Ian McKellan as the Great Detective (£7.99).
406. THE GRAND GAME: A CELEBRATION OF SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: VOLUME ONE: 1902- 1959, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, published in 2011 and long out-of-print, has been reissued the Baker Street Irregulars Press as a trade paperback <www.tinyurl.com/yavarpbb>. The late Bernard Davies once wrote, "How wonderful to discover that, even if you are slightly mad, you are not alone," and the book demonstrates well just how interesting it can be to play the Grand Game (the web-site offers a look at the table of contents). Recommended.
407. Jim Hawkins has launched a Facebook page for the friends of the late John Bennett Shaw; it's intended to be an on-line gathering place where friends can share memories and tell stories about him <www.tinyurl.com/y9bzq38x>.
408. Philip K. Jones died on June 13. He worked for many years in information technology, and when he retired he devoted his attention to a comprehensive data base of Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction, winding up with more than 11,000 entries; it is far more than merely a list of authors and titles: an excellent (some might say frightening) demonstration of how popular Sherlock Holmes is. An earlier version (with 9,531 entries) is available on-line at <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm>, along with his 2012 paper "The Untold Tales--Analyzed".
409. Dermot McEvoy's article on "How Two Literary Legends Tried to Save Sir Roger Casement from the Gallows" <www.tinyurl.com/yb8o48h3> is an interesting exploration of the unsuccessful efforts of George Bernard Shaw and Arthur Conan Doyle to win a reprieve for Casement.
410. The Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring Scooby-Doo, who first appeared in a Hanna-Barbera television series on CBS-TV in 1969 and still is going strong, on stage and screen as well as on television. Greg Ruby posted a colorfully-illustrated discussion of "Sherlock Holmes and Scooby-Doo" at the Fourth Garrideb web-site in 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/y9fsnxv9>.
411. Further to the item on the Google Books Ngram Viewer (Jul 18 #1) Scott Monty sent a reminder that Cory Howell reported in detail on "Sherlock Holmes vs. Tarzan--by the Numbers" at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site in 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/ybjttd6>.

412. Aug 18 #3 The 2018 Irene Adler Prize has been awarded to Lynette Curtis for her essay "Letters to Las Vegas". The prize is a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature, established by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning public speaker and writer in Vancouver, B.C.; it is indeed named for the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia", and you can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay at <www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>.
413. Sheldon Comics is an on-line strip created by Dave Kellett, and you can see his colorful (and amusing) "Anatomy of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" at his web-site <www.sheldoncomics.com/archive/180730.html>; kindly noted by Alexander Orlov.
414. From 1978 to 1991 the U.S. Postal Service issued a series of stamps honoring the "Performing Arts" designed by Jim Sharpe; four of the stamps showed Will Rogers, W. C. Fields, Douglas Fairbanks, and the three Barrymores, all of whom had Sherlockian or Doylean connections. Sharpe's artwork for two of the (other) stamp designs, mounted with copies of the stamps in the series, is available from Taraba Illustration Art for a modest \$275 shipping extra) and you can request an image from <fred@tarabaillustrationart.com>.
415. In 1979 the late Norman Schatell proposed that William Gillette be included in the series. As you can see at <www.tinyurl.com/ya5zrhux>, many of the stamps in the series showed the artists in performance, and a stamp honoring Gillette surely would have showed him as Sherlock Holmes, which would have been the only U.S. postage showing commemorating the Great Detective. Evy Herzog has reported an amusing and colorful "Sherlock Bones and Doctor Pupson" T-shirt designed by Mike Tanoory and available (\$25.00) from John Wye's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y8bmjot2>; Bones is a chihuahua, and Pupson is a French bulldog.
416. "Arthur Conan Doyle was a doctor himself before becoming a writer. Talked about the lessons you learn as a doctor: discipline, confidence, and being able to be decisive. And all of that is indispensable. The last thing I got from him is a very deep understanding of science and also an appreciation of empirical evidence." Charles Krauthammer in "Charles Krauthammer: His Words" (a one-hour tribute on Fox News on June 22). You can watch the program at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8w50oISck8>.
417. Steve Mason has issued a call for nominations for the Beacon Award, given annually by The Beacon Society to someone who has "made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes." The deadline for nominations is Nov. 15, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>.
418. Penn & Teller are among the best magicians performing today, and they have a great television series ("Penn & Teller: Fool Us" on The CW); you can see Shawn Farquhar fool them for the second time with a Sherlockian magic trick at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=E64Z1jIRn4E> (with thanks to Howard Ostrom for his report). Colin McLeod, who's often described as the Sherlock Holmes of mentalism also appeared on the show (but did not fool Penn & Teller); you can see him perform at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnMPnNav_WE>.

419. Aug 18 #4 "The Daintiest Scream on the Moor Charity Ball" was one of many events during the birthday festivities in New York last January, and you can read (almost) all about it in Maria Fleishhack's report in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal; one of the highlights was the appearance of

- the Sherlock Holmes Cake created for the television reality series "Cake Boss", and there's video at <www.tinyurl.com/y739ullg>. There also is the Baker Street Babes' podcast, where they talk about the ball and the cake and other things <www.tinyurl.com/yabudntn>.
420. Nero Wolfe was not the only son of Sherlock Holmes, according to Yuichi Hirayama, who has written THE REMINISCENCES OF KOGORO AKECHI, a biography of the detective created by Edogawa Rampo in 1925; Akechi was a brilliant but eccentric detective who consulted with the police and was a master of disguise and an expert at judo, and relied on a group of young boys to gather information.
421. MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK is the second in the series written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse, due from Titan Books in October; Bill Seil reports that there's publicity, a Sherlockian photograph of Abdul-Jabbar, and an extract from the book at <www.tinyurl.com/y7n3ddfz>.
422. Paramount's "Sherlock Gnomes" has a lifetime gross of more than \$89 million worldwide (according to the Box Office Mojo web-site), far behind "Gnomeo and Juliet" (more than \$193 million worldwide). The numbers don't include revenue from television, DVDs, and tie-in merchandise, which of course can be significant. And there's lots of tie-in merchandise, including a 141-page movie novelization by Mary Tillworth that seems to have been based on an early version of the script, and A. E. Dingee's SHERLOCK GNOMES ON THE CASE, which comes with a handy decoder (\$5.99) (both from Simon Spotlight).
423. The fifth season of "The Flash" will debut on the CW channel on Oct. 9 with Tom Cavanagh as a new character Sherloque Wells; Nick Venable suggested on Cinema Blend <www.tinyurl.com/yagnoxa0> that the character may be a nod to Sherlock Holmes, or perhaps Sherlock Hemlock.
424. John Allen's SHADOW WOMAN: THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Long Beach: Allen & Allen Semiotics, 2017; 302 pp., \$19.95) suggests that much of Conan Doyle's literary work was not in fact written by him, and that most of the Canon was written by Louise Conan Doyle and Jean Conan Doyle; Allen offers evidence from stylometric analysis, the Canon's literary allusions, and a detailed examination of the manuscript of "A Scandal in Bohemia", and does not neglect Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work. Allen's research involved scholarship by Sherlockians, and others, and he displays an ability to discover allusions, make connections and draw conclusions that rivals what Sam Rosenberg achieved in NAKED IS THE BEST DISGUISE more than 40 years ago.
425. He also has written BRIMSTONE (Long Beach: Allen & Allen Semiotics, 2018; 223 pp., \$9.99); it's billed as the first in a series of Louise Conan Doyle mysteries, but features Louise Hawkins and is set in 1879 (well before she met her future husband). The book's well plotted and well written, and has interesting supporting characters; careful readers will note foreshadowing of the Canon. The author has a "Louise Conan Doyle Cyclopedia" web-site at <www.louiseconandoyle.com>, where he has been blogging since June 2017.
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426. Aug 18 #5 Joanna Blalock stars in A STUDY IN TREASON (New York: Minotaur, 2018; 299 pp., \$26.99), the second in Leonard Goldberg's series about the daughter of Sherlock Holmes, who once again is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr. in 1914, searching for a missing document and encountering a vicious killer (Joanne has learned much from her father). The author has a web-site at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>. Sorry about that: the correct URL for Jim Hawkins' interview with the late Joel Senter (Jul 18 #4) is <www.nashvillescholars.net/jcsenterbio.html>.
427. Much has been written about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's encounters with Harry Houdini, and while Conan Doyle is mentioned only in passing in Derek Tait's THE GREAT HOUDINI: HIS BRITISH TOURS (Barnsley: Pen & Sword History, 2017; 296 pp., \$39.95), the book offers a carefully-researched and enjoyable look at Houdini's appearances in Britain, where he performed in vaudeville theaters at the top of bills that included many other entertainers (audiences definitely got their money's worth in those long-ago days).
428. "How It Should Have Ended" is a 15-minute animated web-series streamed by Starz Digital Media; their 3-minute alternate ending for "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" premiered on Feb. 16, 2012, and it's available on-line at <www.howitshouldhaveended.com/?s=sherlock>, in case you don't want to wait until the third Robert Downey Jr. film arrives in theaters.
429. The "Baker Street Sonata" will be a performance by the Mother Lode Friends of Music at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., on Nov. 10 and 11; more information at <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
430. "The John Batchelor Show" was launched on WABC-AM in New York in 2001, and is still going strong, and there's a web-site www.johnbatchelorshow.com where you can listen to his podcasts, including a two-part interview with Michael Dirda (uploaded on Aug. 12) about Conan Doyle, and Holmes, and The Baker Irregulars.
431. Alexander Orlov has reported that there's a "Baker Street" residential complex in the Dzerzhinsky district of Volgograd. There's a web-site (with an amusing video) at <www.bs34.ru/kompleks/o-komplekse>, and more information to be found at <www.bs34.ru/kompleks/novosti/novosti-17-09-2014-07>; it's all in Russian, and (as always) Google Translate can be helpful. Buildings in the complex are named Sherlock, Watson, Big Ben, and Hudson House.
432. Edward C. Rochette died on Jan. 18. He was a professional numismatist, as a cartoonist and editor and then an executive with the American Numismatic Association. Ed also was an energetic Sherlockian, and a member of three Sherlockian societies in Colorado, and for many years he presided over the mail-order company Sherlock, Stock & Barrel.
433. Michael A. Ventrella and Jonathan Mabery have edited BAKER STREET IRREGULARS: THE GAME IS AFOOT (New York: Diversion Books, 2018; 257 pp., \$15.99); it's a sequel to their BAKER STREET IRREGULARS: THIRTEEN AUTHORS WITH NEW TAKES ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (Feb 17 #5) and offers thirteen more versions of Holmes (among them a home security system, a rabbi, a female librarian in ancient Egypt, and Santa Claus).
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434. Aug 18 #6 Further to the earlier report (Jan 18 #7) that items from the Daniel Posnansky Collection are turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, Lewis Durbin (lewidurbi0) is offering a nicely bound volume of Chambers's Journal (1879) for \$649.50; "The Mystery of Sasassa Valley" (Conan Doyle's first published story) appeared in the magazine on Sept. 6, 1879 <www.tinyurl.com/y96jg25z> (when the author was only 20 years old).
435. The No Frills Silver Blaze was run at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, N.J. on Aug. 18, arranged by The Turf Builders of Baker Street, and Kate Karlson suggests that the winner had the most appropriate name in any runnings of The Silver Blaze anywhere, ever <www.tinyurl.com/y869pblr>. Sherlockians (and others) who were wise enough to bet on the winner made a bit of money: the payout was \$4.80/\$2.60/\$2.20.
436. At least it's not a musical: "King Kong Alive on Broadway" will open this fall, using animatronics and puppetry in a 21st-century reimagining of the story of "a 2,000-pound, 20-foot high gorilla and the woman who risks everything to help him" <www.kingkongbroadway.com>. Nor is it Sherlockian, apparently, but nevertheless the mind boggles.
437. Further to the report (May 17 #4) about Sherlockian.Net having found a new home at Michigan State University, there has been a formal (and nicely illustrated) announcement on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y87cvakj>.

438. Les Moskowitz has noted a story in the Philadelphia Inquirer that reports that the historic Carbon County Jail in Jim Thorpe, Penn., is for sale; the asking price is \$749,000 <www.tinyurl.com/yd8naz4v>. Sherlockians visited the jail in 2004 during the first of the Baker Street Irregulars' weekend excursions (it's where the Mollie Maguires were hanged), and if you buy it you also acquire the gallows and a ghost. Les also reports that there's an interesting podcast about the Mollies at <www.tinyurl.com/yb8g2xpd>.
439. "Professor Quiz" (radio's first quiz show) launched on CBS on May 9, 1936, and "Uncle Jim's Question Bee" was the second, premiering on NBC on Sept. 26, 1936; both programs had the same sponsor, the company that in 1930 had begun a long running series that starred William Gillette, Richard Gordon, and Louis Hector, all of whom played Sherlock Holmes. That series ended on May 26, 1935; it's likely that G. Washington Coffee decided in 1935 that a quiz show would be more popular with listeners than Sherlock Holmes. So (spoiler alert): the appropriately-named winner of the No Frills Silver Blaze at Monmouth Park was named (in case you didn't bother to click on the link) Faster N Blazes.
440. The summer issue of The Baker Street Journal at hand, with scholarship and news and artwork, some of the artwork being a nice reminder of the humor of the late Norman Schatell. Editor Steve Rothman reports on Les Klinger's recent (and successful) battle with the Conan Doyle Estate Limited over its application for a trademark on Sherlock Holmes for use in books, short stories, and magazines in the field of detective fiction; there's still time to purchase a subscription for this year's five issues of the BSJ, available at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

441. Aug 18 #7 Derrick Belanger's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE PRIMAL MAN (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2016; 167 pp., \$9.95) involves Holmes and Watson, and Holmes' cousin Prof. Ellington Dynamo (who is a dead ringer for Prof. George Edward Challenger) investigating a possible yeti, bought to London from Tibet in a block of ice; there's also an account of the first case Holmes solved, as a young student. The publisher's web-site is at <www.belangerbooks.com>.
442. Also from Belanger: David Marcum's HOLMES AWAY FROM HOME: ADVENTURES FROM THE GREAT HIATUS, VOLUME ONE (1891-1892) and VOLUME TWO (1893-1894) (2016; 279/305 pp., \$19.95 each) are collections of pastiches recounting Holmes' adventures between "The Final Problem" and "The Empty House" (he had many adventures, in many countries).
443. Barry S Brown's MRS. HUDSON'S OLYMPIC TRIUMPH (London: MX Publishing, 2017; 245 pp., \$16.95 the fifth in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series, and he continues his amusing approach to the Canon: Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case that takes them all to Greece for the 1896 Olympics (in which Holmes competes), and of course they solve a mystery on behalf of Her Majesty's government. The author's web-site is at <www.barrysbrown.com> and MX Publishing sells all of its books at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
444. Also from MX: Marcia Wilson's THE PEACEFUL NIGHT POISONINGS, 2017; 270 pp., \$14.95) is the second title in her "Test of the Professionals" series; the first was THE ADVENTURE OF THE FLYING BLUE PIGEON, with LEAP YEAR being the third). The books focus on the professionals (Lestrade, Gregson, and Bradstreet), and their work with Holmes and Watson, and the well-written story offers an interesting look at a world as seen by the Scotland Yarders.
445. More from MX: Thos. Kent Miller's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD was a 75-page booklet published in 1991 (Oct 91 #4); revised and expanded, it was published in three volumes in 2017 as HOLMES BEHIND THE VEIL: SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD (116 pp., \$9.95); THE GREAT DETECTIVE AT THE CRUCIBLE OF LIFE (414 pp., \$18.95), and THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPER AT THE DAWN OF TIME (387 pp., \$18.95). Miller focuses on books written by H. Rider Haggard and the characters he created (chiefly Leo Vincey about Tibet, and Alan Quatermain about East and West Africa), with many more from books written by Rudyard Kipling and Jules Verne and others, as well as from both legend and history, past and present.
446. Still more from MX: Allan Mitchell's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GHOST OF GLASTONBURY (2017; 330 pp., \$16.95) has Holmes and Watson in Somerset, a region that Holmes knew well as a youth, with a mystery that involves a detailed ancient history of the area. John Sutton's UPON A NATION'S HONOUR (2018; 204 pp., \$16.95) has Holmes and Watson working hard to foil Germany's sinister plot to steal a top-secret weapon from the new HMS Dreadnaught (the weapon would provide Germany with a fearsome advantage in the coming World War).
447. "Holmes and Watson" (starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) is scheduled to open wide in theaters on Dec. 21, and there's an amusing poster, spotted by Herb Moskowitz, at <www.tinyurl.com/y7x7jbs3>.
448. Aug 18 #8 Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is running at the Maplewood Barn Community Theatre in Columbia, Mo., until Sept. 9 <www.maplewoodbarn.com>. It will also be performed at the Long Beach Playhouse in Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 22-Oct. 20 <www.lbplayhouse.org>.
449. Ray Crew's "Sherlock Holmes and the Avenging Angels" (not a dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet") is on at the Elementary Theater in Cape May, N.J., through Sept. 29 <www.centerforcommunityarts.org>.
450. Robert Brock's two-act puppet play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" is running at the Lancaster Puppet Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., through Nov. 17 <www.lmtyapsody.com>.
451. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Century Church Theatre in Hillsburgh, Ont., Sept. 7-16 <www.tinyurl.com/ybbcm6c>; it also will be performed at the Riverbank Theatre in Marine City, Mich., Sept. 7-30 <www.riverbanktheatre.com>.
452. John Goodrum's dramatization of "The Nightmare Room" will be performed at the Pomegranate Theatre in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, Sept. 13-15; web-site at <www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk>.
453. Christopher Cutting's "The Accidental Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Lansdown Hall & Gallery in Stroud, Gloucestershire, Sept. 14-16; and at the Bread and Roses Theatre in Clapham, London, Oct. 6-7; the web-site's at <www.tobaccoteatrecompany.co.uk>.
454. Hellan Salfas' "Sherlock Holmes i el Destripador" is scheduled (in Catalan) at the Teatre Apolo in Barcelona, Sept. 21-Oct. 7 <www.teatreapolo.com>.
455. John de Lancie and Nat Segaloff's dramatization of "The Lost World" will be performed at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith, N.H., Sept. 28-29, as part of a "Radio Drama Double Feature" <www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org>. Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" will be performed at the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham, West Midlands, Oct. 4-6 <www.crescenttheatre.co.uk>.
456. "The Improvised Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled by the Synergy Theater at the Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, Calif., Oct. 18-21 <www.lesherartsceter.com>.
457. Andy Suess' "Sherlock Holmes und der Diebstahl der Quadriga" (a radio play performed by actors and puppets) will be performed at Das Weite Theater in Berlin, Oct. 12 and 13 <www.das-weite-theater.de>.
458. Thomas Moore's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Lowry in Salford on Oct. 28, and at the Drayton Arms Theatre in London on Dec. 11-Jan. 12, 2019 <www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk>.

459. Sep 18 #1 Apologies for being a bit late with this issue, my excuse being a trip to the land of the "dubhgall" (which translates to "dark foreigner"). That's Ireland, and the presence of the name in the historical records of the 8th and 9th centuries, when the Vikings arrived in Ireland, suggests that the descendants of that dark foreigner are those known today as Doyle (one recalls, of course, that there's a photograph of Conan Doyle in costume as a Viking).
460. Arthur Conan Doyle's visit to Berlin in 1890 to investigate Robert Koch's widely hailed cure for tuberculosis is briefly discussed in biographies of Conan Doyle (he concluded that Koch's treatment was not, in fact, a cure, and published an article explaining why). Thomas Goetz's *THE REMEDY: ROBERT KOCH, ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, AND THE QUEST TO CURE TUBERCULOSIS* (New York: Gotham Books, 2014; 298 pp., \$27.00) offers a detailed account of how great a scourge the disease was at the time, and informative biographies of the two doctors.
461. The McClelland Tobacco Company has closed, after 40 years of selling pipe tobaccos from high grade leaf and strip tobacco that's no longer available; "we might have limped along with lesser leaf," the owners said, "but nobody would have been happy with the resulting products, and we would have been ashamed of them." Larry Wagner wrote about the company's history in an article in *Tobacconist* in May <www.tinyurl.com/y9dt3aya>, but doesn't mention their "221B Series" that featured Black Shag, Arcadia, and Honeydew, prized by Sherlockian pipe-smokers (and others who were happy to collect the handsome tins).
462. Alexander Orlov has noted a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Kharkov, in the Ukraine (without a web-site, but it's reviewed at TripAdvisor on-line). The fact that there are so many Sherlock Holmes Pubs around the world demonstrates his popularity.
463. The late Raymond Smullyan, author of *THE CHESS MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1979) and many other books, has been credited as having created "the hardest logic puzzle ever." If you would like to try your hand at it, you can find it at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/prux6yo>. But (spoiler alert): don't scroll down too far, because Wikipedia also gives the solution (which you may find as difficult as the puzzle).
464. "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" was a two-hour special broadcast by CBS-TV on Jan. 10, 1987, starring Michael Pennington (Sherlock Holmes) and Margaret Colin (Jane Watson); Jennie Paton has found it conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8wcm94k>.
465. Many will have seen at least one performance of Matthew Lang's one-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" or Charles Marowitz's two-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" (which was Marowitz's expanded version of the play he wrote as Matthew Lang). There's some interesting discussion of the play in his *BURNT BRIDGES* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1990); the sub-title of the book is "a souvenir of the swinging sixties and beyond," and he tells grand stories about his early theatrical career in London and elsewhere.
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466. Sep 18 #2 It's always fun to realize that my local library is housed in three buildings on Capitol Hill. The Library of Congress has all sorts of resources, including a well-staffed reference desk, where for more than 30 years you could find Thomas Mann, who knew just where all the bodies were buried. Tom is now retired, and has found time to write *DOC AT THE REFERENCE DESK* (Washington: Alexandrina Press, 2017; 77 pp., \$7.00), a collection of "small stories in a large library" that gives one an idea of some of the strange things that can happen at a reference desk. Non-Sherlockian (but obviously written by a Sherlockian), and great fun for anyone who likes real libraries.
467. The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps honoring the 200th anniversary of the Old Vic in London, and three of the stamps show actors who have had six Sherlockian roles (none of them at the Old Vic): Sir Ralph Richardson and Sir John Gielgud, Sir Laurence Olivier, and Dame Judi Dench. Try your hand at naming the six roles without looking them up (answers will be on the next page).
468. Craig Sodaro is a prolific playwright for younger performers, and Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> has published many of his plays (and plays by other authors); you can search at their web-site for [sherlock holmes] and (for one additional play) [conan doyle].
469. You can see a poster for "Detective Chimp and the Case of the Missing Mustache" (a film that exists only as a poster) in the trailer for "Teen Titans Go! to the Movies" (2018), and likely in the film itself. There's a brief glimpse of the poster (at 26 seconds) in the trailer <www.tinyurl.com/y8z428kj>.
470. "If you could attenuate to every strand of quivering data, the future would be entirely calculable," is attributed to Sherlock Holmes in an article by Max Loh in *Seeking Alpha* on Aug. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/y9aspmol>. So: where and when did Sherlock Holmes say that? Not in the Canon, so don't bother searching there.
471. Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*, which for many years has published Sherlockiana in its February issue, nicely timed to coincide with the birthday festivities in New York, has a web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yaemcfcm> that's well worth exploring. There's audio and video from the symposium at Columbia University in 2016 that celebrated the 75th anniversary of EQMM, Arthur Vidro's web-only account of the history of the magazine's first issue, Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" report on "We Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (Feb. 2018), and much more.
472. George Mann's *THE IMMORALITY ENGINE* (New York: Tor/Tom Doherty, 2011; 347 pp., \$33.87) is the third in his series about Sir Maurice Newbury and Victoria Hobbes; the first was *THE AFFINITY BRIDGE* (2009), the second *THE OSIRIS RITUAL* (2010), and the fourth *THE EXECUTIONER'S HEART* (2013). The series, set in a steampunk Victorian London, with interesting characters, is not Sherlockian, but nicely done. Mann has written some good Sherlockian pastiches, and has a web-site at <www.george-mann.com>.
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473. Sep 18 #3 About those four actors: Richardson and Gielgud played Holmes and Watson in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC Radio (1954); Olivier was Prof. Moriarty in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976); Dench was Sally in "A Study in Terror" (1965), and was heard as Mrs. Hudson in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio (1998), and Gielgud played Lord Salisbury in "Murder by Decree" (1979).
474. Why did Rex Stout decide that Nero Wolfe would live on West 35th Street in New York? John J. McAleer, who wrote a delightful and definitive biography of Stout, reported in 1979 that Stout explained that West 35th Street was where William Gillette's Holmes "received his first acclaim" at the Garrick Theatre.
475. *CLASSIC AMERICAN CRIME FICTION OF THE 1920S* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2018; 1,152 pp., \$39.95), annotated by Leslie S. Klinger and with a Foreword by Otto Penzler, is an interesting addition to the wide variety of literature that Les has annotated; the book contains five novels by Earl Derr Biggers, S. S. Van Dine, Ellery Queen, Dashiell Hammett, and W. R. Burnett, from a decade in which American crime writing was reborn (and a decade that is far enough in the past that annotations are helpful indeed). Four of the authors likely will be familiar; Burnett wrote *LITTLE CAESAR*, today best known as the source of the 1931 movie that starred Edward G. Robinson, and it's a treat to see what Rico was like on the printed page.
476. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a colorful set of four postage stamps showing dragons, one of them being a green dragon and thus Sherlockian; dragons are mentioned in three of the Sherlock Holmes stories, but only one of them is green.
477. "If you could attenuate to every strand of quivering data, the future would be entirely calculable," was said by Sherlock Holmes in "The Six Thatchers" (an episode in the BBC's "Sherlock" series), and easily found, as it turns out, with a Google search. This is not the first time Holmes has been quoted in print from an unidentified non-Canonical source, and it's likely to happen more and more often.

478. Karen Murdock spotted Robert Douglas-Fairhurst's interesting review in the Guardian on Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/y7qrxp6g> of two books about mazes and labyrinths; he draws an interesting connection between "the scarlet thread of murder" in "A Study in Scarlet" and the ball of red thread that Ariadne gave to Theseus to help him find his way out of the Cretan labyrinth after he killed the Minotaur.
479. The Baker Street Irregulars <www.tinyurl.com/yb57rklo> is one of the teams in the CSFBL [Computer Simulated Fantasy Football League]; you're welcome to click on the "How to Play" button to see how thing work in the League.
480. Neil Simon died on Aug. 26. He wrote dozens of plays, more than 20 screenplays, and the scripts for five hit musicals, and was sometimes called the world's most popular playwright. Perhaps best-known for "The Odd Couple" (1965), he won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1991 for "Lost in Yonkers", and wrote the screenplay for "Murder By Death" (1976); one of the alternate endings for the film included an appearance by Holmes and Watson.
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481. Sep 18 #4 Collectors of Sherlockian comic books face a problem: the older comic books are more and more expensive each year. But if you want only to read them, there's a great web-site with digital scans and a handy search engine. For example: Hit Comics #29 (Sept. 1943) had Sherlock Holmes on the cover (and in the story "Barry Magician"); you can read the entire comic book, in full color, at <www.comicbookplus.com/?dliid=71548>.
482. When in Edinburgh: consider The Real Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour of Edinburgh <www.realsherlockholmes.com>; tours can be three hours or a full day (and of course focuses on Conan Doyle rather than Holmes).
483. Further to the report (Feb 18 #6) on the competition set by the Folio Society and House of Illustration for Sherlockian artwork, one of the finalists was Nataša Ilinčić, and her three illustrations can be seen at her web-site <www.natasilincic.com/book-illustration-2>, and prints are available at her shop at Society6 <www.tinyurl.com/yafa4s9v>.
484. Karen Murdock has reported an article about "Miraculous Mushrooms" in the August issue of Remedies, and the Lion's Mane Mushroom, which is believed by some to be quite healthful and helpful. *Hericium erinaceus*, according to Wikipedia, has other names, including the bearded hedgehog mushroom and the satyr's beard, and is undergoing basic research for potential biological properties.
485. Canadian skater Stephen Gogolev landed a quad Lutz en route winning a gold medal in a competition in Slovakia last month; he skated to music from the film "Sherlock Holmes" and wore imaginative costume, which you can see in a story in the Toronto Star <www.tinyurl.com/y7dsltre>.
486. What's the strangest location for a Sherlockian lecture? A leading candidate would be the Mountain View Mausoleum in Altadena, Calif., where Leslie S. Klinger will be the guest speaker on Oct. 11 at an event that will include (in addition to his lecture) a happy hour, a book signing, and a dessert reception; the story at Pasadena Now <www.tinyurl.com/ya9ct3mm> has a nice image of the mausoleum.
487. About that postage stamp: the Green Dragon was the inn, kept by old Barnes, three miles off at Crendall (in "Shoscombe Old Place").
488. Greg Ruby continues to post interesting commentary at "The Fourth Garrideb" <www.fourthgarrideb.com>; devoted to the "Numismatics of Sherlock Holmes", it covers much more than money: "The Decorated Captain Tommy Gregson of the NYPD" explains the medals and ribbons one sees when he wears his dress uniform on the television series "Elementary".
489. Further to the report (Aug 18 #7) about the amusing poster for "Holmes and Watson" (the film that stars Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly and is due for release on Dec. 21), the poster is now extremely difficult to find on the Internet: Torrent Freak noted (Aug. 29) <www.tinyurl.com/yczqgvr9> that Columbia Pictures sent DMCA notices to scrub any and all copies from the web (the DMCA is the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, enacted in 1998). Not every web-site received a DMCA notice; the Red Circle of Washington still displays the poster in its Calendar <www.redcircledc.org>.
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490. Sep 18 #5 The British Library has an interesting web-site, which offers articles such as Liza Picard's "Education in Victorian Britain" <www.tinyurl.com/yba2nyza> which includes a brief mention of board-schools (as in "The Naval Treaty"). And John Sutherland's "An Introduction to Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" <www.tinyurl.com/y9cztloq> which includes a mention that Eliot was a great lover of the Sherlock Holmes stories.
491. Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger have edited FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME (New York: Pegasus, 2018; 284 pp., \$25.95), the fourth in their series of anthologies of "stories inspired by the Sherlock Holmes Canon." Sherlockians often use the word "pastiche" to describe just about any sort of Sherlockian story, including parodies (such as Robert L. Fish's "Schlock Homes" stories) and homages (August Derleth's "Solar Pons" stories), and it may be that yet another word is needed to describe what happens after Laurie and Les ask good writers to do something (or anything) Sherlockian; the results can be interesting and enjoyable indeed.
492. Further to the item (Mar 18 #5) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: she has a web-site at <www.sherlockholmestartan.com> where you can see a wide variety of merchandise; she will also have a table in the Merchants Room during the Birthday Festivities in January.
493. FLIGHT OR FRIGHT, an anthology of flight-based horror stories that was edited by Stephen King and Bev Vincent (Mar 18 #4), has been issued as an audiobook, with Simon Jones reading Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights" (Simon and Schuster Audio, \$34.99); Jones played Sherlock Holmes on stage in the Gillette play in New York in 1998, and in the musical "Baker Street" in New York in 2001.
494. "It's good if you want to go to the Sherlock Holmes Museum every single day of your life, and less-than-ideal for literally anything else," according to an article in VICE on Sept. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/y85rgfoc>: it's a small apartment with a fold-out bed, available for £1,894 a month.
495. Jennie Paton spotted an imaginative and jazzy video that advertises Sherlock Handcraft Gin <www.vimeo.com/287490989>; there's a nice image of the label at <www.markspirits.com>. The method of production is "bathtub with premium grain alcohol," and the name was "inspired by the best hound of all time."
496. The summer issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) focuses on Conan Doyle in Africa, with articles by James Reese, Hartley Nathan, and Brenda Rossini along with news from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and you can easily join the Friends at <www.acdfriends.org>.
497. Sorry about that: the amusing poster for "Holmes and Watson" (Aug 18 #7) is hard to find on the Internet, likely because the studio requested/demanded that it be taken down. If you would like to see it, go to the Red Circle of Washington's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>: it's in the Calendar at the right, at Dec. 21.
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498. Sep 18 #6 Ray Betzner plans to devote his "Studies in Starrett" blog this fall to a detailed examination of the publishing history of THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a true classic in our literature, and he'd like to hear from anyone who has information about the history of Mike Murphy's plans to reprint the 1933 first edition, which resulted in a limited edition of unbound signatures from the Autolycus Press in 1979. Ray can be reached at <rlrbetzner@mac.com> and you can read the first of his weekly installments at <www.bit.ly/2wTxQOB>.

499. Copies of William R. Cochran's THE EMPTY PROBLEM AND THE FINAL HOUSE (2017) are still available for \$21.00 postpaid from Bill (614 South Terrace Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901); the 35-page pamphlet offers the results of his explorations of the two stories that bookend the battle at the Reichenbach.
 500. There's now an official trailer for the upcoming comedy "Holmes and Watson" (starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) <www.tinyurl.com/y8kgh4at>; the film's due in theaters on Dec. 21.
 501. "Bejewelled: Badges, Brotherhood and Identity" is the title of an exhibition, open through Aug. 24, 2019, at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London. The exhibition's web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/7zslb3j>, and there was an article in the Telegraph on Aug. 25 www.tinyurl.com/yak9t69o that said that the jewelry on display would include Conan Doyle's badge; it turns out that the reporter got it wrong: while the Museum does have Conan Doyle's jewelry, it won't be on display.
 502. Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK will have a Japanese edition from Sakhin-sha, translated by Yuichi Hirayama; his book's already available in Swedish (2013), Danish (2014), German (2015), Norwegian (2016), and English (2017).
 503. "The Hound of the Wasgijville!" is the title of a new 1,500-piece Sherlockian jigsaw puzzle that features detective Sheer-luck, available at Amazon (\$20.00) and elsewhere <www.tinyurl.com/y9yrhyaa>. There's also a new (and attractive) "Sherlock Holmes" 1,000-piece puzzle available from ThinkGeek (\$14.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y8xuezx5>.
 504. John P. Crotty ("Dr. James Mortimer") died on Aug. 12. He worked for many years as a radiologist in St. Louis, and was a colleague of Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs, from whom John acquired the treasure trove of original Frederic Dorr Steele artwork that Briggs had received from the artist. John was an energetic member of the Sherlockian society in St. Louis, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.
 505. Those who enjoy the CBS-TV series "Elementary" will welcome the news that the two-part finale does not end the series. The seventh season is now in production, picking up a year later, and show-runner Rob Doherty has told a TV Line interviewer that "Sherlock, Joan, Gregson, and Bell form this very non-traditional family unit, and as the seventh season begins there's going to be a family crisis." Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu now firmly hold the second-place record for having played Holmes and Watson in the most performances in the most shows (Rathbone and Bruce still lead, counting all their films and radio programs).
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506. Sep 18 #7 S. C. Roberts' HOLMES AND WATSON: A MISCELLANY, first published in 1953, was a landmark in Sherlockian scholarship, offering a collection of his writings, including a play and a pastiche, and his comments on the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in 1951, demonstrating well just how much fun there is in taking a serious look at the Canon. Roberts was an excellent writer, and the first president of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and his book has now been reissued by the British Library (160 pp., £10.00/\$15.95), with an nicely insightful Introduction by Guy Marriott; it's grand to have Roberts' thoughts on the Canon available again.
 507. Conan Doyle's Colt .38 semi-automatic pistol, offered at auction on Sept. 20 in the U.K. (Aug 18 #1), sold for £4,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y9o9kkoy>.
 508. Further to the item (Sep 97 #1) about Abdul Hamid II, who was the last Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, the Daily Sabah had an interesting story on July 27 about the Sultan's passion for Sherlock Holmes, and his meeting with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/yd57kftz>. Grey Ruby has an interesting post about the medals the Sultan awarded to Conan Doyle and his wife at the Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7f67nd4>.
 509. Evy Herzog reports that Fabienne Courouge and Hélène Colin, with some kinsprits, have founded "La Gazette du 221B" (a "webzine d'études et d'actualités sur l'univers de Sherlock Holmes"), all in French, with three issues so far; all available in the Archives at <www.gazette221b.com>, and they're a colorful demonstration of what can be done now on the Internet.
 510. "Sherlock Holmes brings The Rolling Clones" was the headline on a story in the Gulf Daily News <www.tinyurl.com/yc6hfx3n>; the Rolling Clones band is a tribute to the Rolling Stones, and the "Sherlock Holmes" turns out to be the Sherlock Holmes Pub in the Gulf Hotel in Bahrain.
 511. Further to the report (Jul 18 #2) on a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel had cited evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912), the National Park Authority has scheduled a five-day inquiry in January, at which the developer will continue its battle against local objections, according to a story in the Southern Daily Echo <www.tinyurl.com/y7t87ssw>.
 512. Conan Doyle and hockey? We know he was an athlete, but we don't know if he played hockey, although there is a connection: a letter he wrote (well, it actually was written and signed for him by his secretary) from Undershaw to Miss Williams, saying, "I am sorry to say that I have so much heavy work to hand at present that I fear I am quite unable to be of any use to the Hindhead Hockey Club." There seems to be nothing on the Internet about a Hindhead Hockey Club, but there is a Haslemere Hockey Club that was founded in 1946, with eight teams for men, five for ladies, and ten squads in a junior section. And their sport, of course, is field hockey. The letter was at auction this month at Duke's in Dorchester, estimated at £200-£300; it sold for £180 <www.tinyurl.com/ybgulfff>. You can identify letters written and signed by Conan Doyle's secretaries by the symbols written underneath the signatures; this is something to look for if you have any doubts about the handwriting.
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513. Sep 18 #8 And there's no shortage of Sherlockian (and Doylean and Watsonian) theater coming up: Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is on at the Dragon Theatre in Redwood City, Calif., though Oct. 7 <www.dragonproductions.net>.
 514. Timothy N. Evers' "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" ("The Greek Interpreter" and "Charles Augustus Milverton") will be performed at the Classical Theatre Company in Houston, Tex., Oct. 3-21 <www.classicaltheatre.org>.
 515. "The Twilight of the Gods" (a new "comedic thriller" written by Wes Driver and Gregg Greene) is due at the Williamson County Performing Arts Center at Academy Park in Franklin, Tenn., Oct. 4-14 <www.blackbirdtheater.com>; the play offers "Mark Twain, Edgar Allan Poe, Annie Oakley, Arthur Conan Doyle, and a number of other 19th century luminaries...locked in a battle of wits and ideologies, while a killer in their midst turns their dream for a modern Utopia into a Gothic nightmare."
 516. Patrick Derksen's "A Lighter Shade of Noir" (a parody whose characters include Shirley Holmes and Dr. Watson) is coming up at the Aledo High School in Weatherford, Tex., Oct. 4-7; the Aledo Players have a Facebook page.
 517. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Garvin Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., Oct. 10-27; their web-site is at <www.theatregroupsbcc.com>. It's also due at the Jewel Box Theatre in Oklahoma City, Okla., from Nov. 19 to Dec. 5 <www.jewelboxtheatre.org>.
 518. "Spontaneous Sherlock" (improvised by the Spontaneous Players) is performed at Monkey Barrel Comedy in Edinburgh <www.thespontaneousplayers.com>, next on Oct. 11 and 25, and Nov. 8 and 22. Their first performance was in Feb. 2015, and they have since appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe and on tour in the U.K.
 519. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Barn Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., from Oct. 24 to Nov. 24 <www.barntheatre.org.uk>.

520. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Cape Fear Playhouse in Wilmington, N.C., Oct. 25-Nov. 11; web-site at <www.bigdawgproductions.org>.
521. "Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is planned by the Owasso Community Theatre in Owasso, Okla., Nov. 1-3; their web-site's at <www.octok.org>.
522. John Alvarez's new "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of a Siren's Call" will be performed during the Sherlock Holmes Weekend in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 2-4 <www.capemaymac.org>.
523. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the W. D. Powell Theatre at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., Nov. 8-13 <www.uu.edu/theatre>.
524. Oct 18 #1 Modern technology has made it possible to abbreviate the traditional forecast for the birthday festivities in New York in January; detailed information will be available at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-dates>.
525. The (very) long weekend will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 9, and end on Sunday, Jan. 13, and the schedule may or may not include some surprises; space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering. There will be more information at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, and his "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be at <www.ihose.co/bsi2019tips> in December.
526. Copies of two of the sepia gelatin prints of the Cottingley Fairies went to auction this month at Dominic Winter Auctioneers in Cirencester, estimated at £700-£1,000 each, and went for £15,000 (Frances Griffiths with the fairies) and £5,400 (Elsie Wright with the gnome) <www.tinyurl.com/y7edj26u>.
527. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 2018 Christmas Card features a period photograph of The Royal Exchange <www.tinyurl.com/yde36bvd> (\$20.00 for a packet of ten). The Society's home-page has much of interest, including (under Publications) a link to an archive of all of the issues of The District Messenger, the newsletter launched by Roger Johnson as a "Grapevine Service" in 1982 and now (edited by Jean Upton) after 379 issues continues to offer the same mix of information and gossip in the U.K. (and elsewhere)
528. that this newsletter does for the U.S. (and elsewhere).
529. It's nice to know that treasures do turn up: a previously unrecorded copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 is advertised by Peter L. Stern, for \$75,000; it has been added to Randall Stock's annotated checklist and census at <www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm>, where you'll also find a link to the AbeBooks entry.
530. MC Black has noted the web-site of the Haslemere Society, which has placed a blue plaque at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home); their web-site's at <www.haslemeresociety.org/undershaw.html>, with a link to the booklet that the society issued when the plaque was unveiled in 2016.
531. Samantha Wolov has reported an En Voyage Perfumes eau de parfum called "The 7% Solution" (suitable for men or women), described at the company's web-site as happy, relaxing, stimulating, and clarifying (and with a mention of Sherlock Holmes at their web-site) <www.tinyurl.com/y73uzs7u> (\$60.00 for an ounce, or \$50.00 for half an ounce).
532. Peter Melonas has been creating interesting Sherlockian (and other) artwork since the 1980s, and his offers at eBay include six Sherlockian prints, one of them a (and colorful) tribute to "The Dancing Men" (\$20.00) that you can see at <www.tinyurl.com/y7ovwujc>.
533. Bill Seil discovered an intriguing Literary Hub blog by Emily Temple on "A Century of Reading: The 10 Books That Defined the 1900s". THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is one of the ten, and Temple noted that the book revived the Sherlock Holmes series, asking "was this an early precursor of Twitter fans bringing back every show on the planet?" <www.tinyurl.com/yc7ohr6u>.
534. Oct 18 #2 THE ADVENTURES OF TWO BRITISH GENTLEMEN IN GERMANY/DIE ABENTEUER ZWEIER BRITISCHER GENTLEMEN IN DEUTSCHLAND, edited by Nicole Glücklich, and published by the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft (286 pp. in English and 298 pp. in German), is a welcome companion to their earlier book about Switzerland (Jul 17 #1); the new book discusses the visits to Germany by Conan Doyle, the Great War, Sherlockian societies in Germany (including a detailed discussion of a society apparently founded in 1902), and Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, radio, and television in Germany, all carefully and colorfully illustrated. Available for \$42.00 (€36.00) postpaid from the society via PayPal <info@sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de>.
535. Birmingham is the youngest city in Europe, with nearly 40% of its population aged under 25, according to the "Student City Guide" published in The Sunday Times on Sept. 23. The Guide also notes that the city has made its mark as the birthplace of HP Sauce and Black Sabbath, "not to mention Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who bought a violin on Sherlock Street while he was a medical student." No author stated for the Guide, so there's no one to ask for evidence that Conan Doyle ever played the violin. And yes, he was born in Edinburgh.
536. Howard Ostrom's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREENS 1929-1939 is the first volume of his Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia (Saint-Sauvier: Mycroft's Brother Editions, 2018; 88 pp., €30.00) <www.mycrofts.net>; it's a delightful exploration of the first decade of Sherlockian talking films, major and minor, from "The Ghost Talks" (1929) to "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939). Howard has spread his net widely, and includes actors in Sherlockian costume, and the entries are accompanied by contemporary reviews, photographs, posters, and commentary; those who have access to the Internet can (and surely will) find many of the major (and minor) films at YouTube or Vimeo. Copies (inscribed on request) are available for delivery in the U.S. for \$35.00 postpaid, from Howard (5748 SW 60th Place, Ocala, FL 34474).
537. James Mustich's 1,000 BOOKS TO READ BEFORE YOU DIE (from Workman, 2018) was warmly reviewed by Michael Dirda in the Washington Post, and it is reported that one of the 1,000 books is THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES ("it would be hard to name another modern literary character who has achieved such international celebrity").
538. MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (New York: Titan Books, 2018; 355 pp., \$25.99) is set in 1872, two years after their MYCROFT HOLMES (Jun 15 #2); the brothers are unintentionally investigating the same mystery, and don't share information until the end of their case. The book's a thriller as well as a mystery, with interesting major and minor characters, and it offers an intriguing look at Victorian London.
539. Further to the previous report (Jun 18 #3) on "Sherlock: The Game Is Now" <www.sherlockgame.com> (billed as "the only official Sherlock Holmes Escape Game, a 90-minute immersive experience for teams of 4-6 people"), it's sold out through the end of the year, but tickets are now being made available through the end of May 2019. The game is organized by Time Run and "Sherlock" creators Steve Moffat and Mark Gatiss, and tickets for the 90-minute experience cost £54 per person. If you don't have your own group, there's a Facebook page for those who want to form teams.
540. Oct 18 #3 Terry Hunt has reported on a discovery in Christopher Morley's memorandum book for 1935 (in the Morley collection at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, Texas): a list of "names for cottage" that he was considering for the one-room cabin that he used as a studio: Ex Libris, The Knothole, The Molehill, The Dachshunds, Satisfaction Piece, The Workhouse, Poison Ivy, Socony Cottage, and The Nerts. Those who've made a pilgrimage to Roslyn, Long Island, know that the name he chose is The Knothole (which also is the name of the newsletter of The Christopher Morley Knothole Association <www.christophermorley.org>).

541. Samantha Wolov has reported <www.bookmarksreviews.com>, handy for those who want to see what reviewers have said about new books from major publishers; you can also search to see how older books (and authors) have been rated.
542. Reported: the Folio Society's THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Feb 18 #6) has been published (\$45.95), and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y85vw9br>; Helen Dorey was on the panel of six judges that chose the illustrator (Max Lüffler), and there's an introduction by Michael Dirda.
543. Nils Claussøn's ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S ART OF FICTION: A REVALUATION (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2018; 384 pp., £67.99) opens with a suggestion that "the fact that Conan Doyle is almost universally regarded as a popular writer has meant that his fiction, like most popular fiction, has been studied not as literature but as a manifestation of popular culture." Claussøn offers an academic "close reading" that is intended to reveal the "neglected artistry" in Conan Doyle's fiction a decidedly different view of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian writings. The publisher offers a 40% discount if you purchase from their web-site by Nov. 15; use the special code ACD40 at their web-site <www.cambridgescholars.com>.
544. Cinema Scandinavia reported on Oct. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/y7luok7w> that the television series "Sherlock North" (in development by Snapper Films in Finland) has been picked up by Viaplay for international distribution; Holmes travels to Scandinavia after the battle at the Reichenbach and "finds himself solving crimes in Finnish Lapland."
545. "The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" at <www.arthur-conan-doyle.com> is a spectacular web-site, maintained by Alexis Barquin in France. It has more than 5,000 pages, and is devoted to all aspects of the life and career of Conan Doyle. You can see the depth of the research with a text search for [les andelys]. It's a town in Normandy that is mentioned several times in Conan Doyle's fiction, and Alexis explains that two of Conan Doyle's sisters went to school there, and Conan Doyle visited the town, and there's a video of a 1959 television interview with the woman whose home he stayed in (the interview was filmed in her garden).
546. The opening of "Holmes & Watson" (with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) has been delayed until Dec. 25, which will please those who want something to do after opening their Christmas presents; no reason was given, but likely it was competition (five other films were scheduled for Dec. 21). The official name for the film now has an ampersand (and no reason was given for that, either).
547. Oct 18 #4 Bill Mason's A HOLMES BY ANY OTHER NAME (Rockville: Wildside, 2018; 195 pp., \$12.99) offers the results of his exploration of variations of the Great Detective's name that he found in parodies, films, comic books, and many other sources, from 1891 to the present; 578 names, from Airlock Holmes to Zoolock Holmes, annotated and indexed, and there are shorter lists for Watson and Moriarty (it's amusing to see the fun people have had with the name of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty). The publisher's web-site is at <www.wildsidepress.com>.
548. Also from Wildside: SHERLOCK HOLMES IS LIKE, edited by Christopher Redmond (2018; 275 pp., \$14.99), offers what he describes as "sixty comparisons for an incomparable character," with essays by sixty Sherlockians whose suggestions range from traditional and expected to weird and wonderful (the latter including Lucy van Pelt, proposed by Steve Mason).
549. The airport in Tottori in Japan has been renamed the Tottori Sand Dunes Conan Airport, according to a story in the Japan Times (July 28). The name of the airport honors the province's impressive sand dunes, and the manga and anime character created by Tottori native Gosho Aoyama; the comic has been running in a weekly magazine since 1994 and features a young detective named in honor of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (the English version of the manga is called "Case Closed"). You can see Detective Conan at the airport in an image at <www.tinyurl.com/y8rysgel>.
550. Jennie Paton spotted "Back of the Bookshelf" (a monthly podcast of classic short stories narrated by C. J. Carter-Stephenson); the first story is Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" <www.vimeo.com/293785106>.
551. Brian W. Pugh continues to revise his A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Mar 14 #7); the fourth edition (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 444 pp., \$34.95) is a grand resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle. The chronology starts in 1755 (with the birth of James Doyle) and ends in 1998 (the memorial service for Dame Jean), and one of the truly useful aspects of the chronology is the citation of sources, so that one can sort through conflicts (and learn that in some cases, Conan Doyle himself was not the most reliable source). There's also information about aspects of his life and works, and maps and photographs, and a careful and useful index compiled by Geraldine Beare. Recommended. MX's books are available at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
552. Also from MX: Daniel D. Victor's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHADOWS OF ST. PETERSBURG (2018; 182 pp., \$12.95) offers an interesting intersection of the Canon with CRIME AND PUNISHMENT; Holmes and Watson are in pursuit of a killer who seems to be recreating the murders in Dostoyevsky's book. Elizabeth Crowens' SILENT MERIDIAN (2016; 350 pp. \$16.95) is a complicated time-shifting novel that involves Conan Doyle, Wells, Houdini, Freud, Jung, and a Japanese shogun in a set of parallel and sometimes supernatural universes. W. P. Lawler's TREACHERY IN TORQUAY (2018; 317 pp., \$16.95) is set on the south coast of England in 1905, with Holmes and Watson investigating a series of brutal murders and aiding a client in protecting his family from dire peril. TALES FROM THE STRANGER'S ROOM, VOLUME 3, edited by David Ruffle (2017; 207 pp., \$16.95), is an interesting anthology of pastiches, poetry, vignettes, and quizzes.
553. Oct 18 #5 The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will open at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., on Nov. 3, running through May 27, 2019, and their web-site's at <www.lsc.org>. It's a spectacular exhibition, and it has been welcomed with enthusiasm everywhere it has been in the U.S. and overseas; there are no future venues scheduled for the exhibition, and it's nice indeed (for travelers from afar) that it will
554. be open during the Sherlockian birthday festivities in January.
555. Congratulations to Russell Merritt, who received the David Shepard Career Achievement Award at the Denver Silent Film Festival; Russell was instrumental in the rescue and restoration of both "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) and "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929).
556. Canadian Holmes, published quarterly by The Bootmakers of Toronto, always is interesting; the fall 2018 issue includes Peter Calamai's "Seeking the Conan Doyle 'Estate' in Portugal" (detailing the results of his investigation triggered by a report that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle once had an estate in Sintra) (he didn't, but there was one), and much more in the 40-page issue; subscriptions to the quarterly cost \$30.00 (US or CA) a year, by mail to the Bootmakers at 2045 Lakeshore Boulevard West #3303, Etobicoke, ON M9B 2Z6, Canada; or at their web-site <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
557. Martin Edwards will deliver next year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 6 at the Toronto Reference Library (Edwards is president of the Detection Club and chair of the Crime Writers' Association, and his topic will be "In Sherlock's Footsteps"); admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend <www.acdfriends.org>.
558. The Japanese eight-episode series "Miss Sherlock" (produced by HBO Asia and Hulu Japan) (May 18 #4) is now available on HBO Go in the U.S., and it is well worth watching; it stars Y-ko Takeuchi as Sherlock, and Shihori Kanjiya as her friend Wato-san, and is full of Canonical echoes.

559. It's sometimes tempting to suggest that everything has a Sherlockian connection. "King Kong" does, at least to the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories: Willis H. O'Brien, who created the stop-motion special effects for "The Lost World" (1925), did the same for "King Kong" (1933), and the late Forry Ackerman owned a pair of models of pterodactyls, one from each film. If you'd like to see what modern technology can do, there's a trailer for the musical "King Kong" (now in previews on Broadway) that shows their 20-foot version of the "gentle giant" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8YJwRUTK7Y>. See also the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/yb9losty>.
560. EconoTimes reported on Oct. 23 that the CBS-TV series "Elementary" has celebrated production of its 150th episode <www.tinyurl.com/y7fywz4e>, and has links to images of the event at the Twitter account of writer and producer Jeffrey Paul King, who has worked on every episode.
561. Bradley Harper's A KNIFE IN THE FOG (Amherst: Seventh Street Books, 2018; 288 pp., \$15.95) has Arthur Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell in pursuit of Jack the Ripper, accompanied by Margaret Harkness (who also was a real person, quite familiar with the appalling conditions faced by the poor in London); Conan Doyle is an excellent detective, and the story's nicely told.
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562. Oct 18 #6 And theatrical news: C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Doom of Devilsmoor" is on at the Gillette Community Theatre in Gillette, Wyo., though Nov. 3 <www.gillettecommunitytheatre.weebly.com>.
563. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the Bay Area Harbour Playhouse in Dickinson, Tex., through Nov. 4 <www.harbourtheater.com>.
564. Jeffery Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is running at the Clear Creek Community Theatre in Nassau Bay, Tex., through Nov. 4 <www.clearcreekcommunitytheatre.com>.
565. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is on at the Little Theatre in American Falls, Idaho, through Nov. 5; Facebook page at <www.tinyurl.com/y9p2a2ud>. It's also due at the Wade James Theatre in Edmonds, Wash., June 14-30; web-site at <www.edmondsdriftwoodplayers.org>.
566. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Monon Depot Theatre in Lafayette, Ind., through Nov. 10; the web-site's at <www.lafayettecivic.org>. It also will be performed at the Andria Theatre in Alexandria, Minn., Jan. 11-20, 2019 <www.andriatheatre.org>; and the Des Moines Community Playhouse in Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 25-Feb. 10, 2019 <www.dmplayhouse.com>.
567. Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is due at the Lansing Hannah Community Center in East Lansing, Mich., Nov. 2-11 <www.allofusedexpress.org>.
568. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is due at Harriton High School in Bryn Mawr, Pa., Nov. 14-17 <www.harritontheater.com>.
569. "Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Holly" is due at the Prairie Pines Playhouse in Maize, Kans., Nov. 16-Dec. 23 <www.prairiepinesplayhouse.com>.
570. The Rain or Shine Theatre Company will perform their new comedy "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Dr. Jekyll & Miss Hyde" at the Bradwell Village Hall in Bradwell, Oxon., on Nov. 17, and then take the show on tour in the U.K. <www.rainorshire.co.uk>.
571. John Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" is due at The Gladstone in Ottawa, Ont., Nov. 23-Dec. 1 <www.thegladstone.ca>.
572. The Tehachapi Community Theater will perform John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol" at TCT Second Space In Tehachapi, Calif., Nov. 23-Dec. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/y9nt4zyn>.
573. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Hanover Tavern in Hanover, Va., Nov. 30-Jan. 6 <www.virginiarep.org>. And at the Stage III Community Theatre in Casper, Wyo., Dec. 7-23; web-site at <www.stageiiitheatre.org>.
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574. Nov 18 #1 Modern technology has made it possible to abbreviate the traditional forecast for the birthday festivities in New York in January; details available at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/2018/11/20/the-2019-bis-weekend>. Space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering.
575. The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity.
576. Just in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year is on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm#newgifts>; he also has recommendations of older Sherlockiana.
577. Those who fondly remember the days when one could listen to "Bob and Ray" on the radio in the 1950s will welcome Jennie Paton's discovery that one of their "Sherlock Sage" segments (with Bob Elliott as Sherlock Sage and Ray Goulding as Dr. Clyde) is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8xjss8w>; and yes, YouTube does audio as well as video.
578. Thomas D. Utecht ("Arthur Charpentier") died on Nov. 9. He worked in marketing communications for Macy's and then for the U.S. Navy, and discovered the Sherlockian world at a John Bennett Shaw workshop in 1984. Thom was a founder of the Montague Street Lodgers and a stalwart member of the Three Garridebs, and (like Holmes) was an inveterate pipe-smoker; he was an enthusiastic attendee at Autumn in Baker Street, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.
579. The next 221B Con will be held in Atlanta on Apr. 5-7; registration is now open at <www.221bcon.com>, where you'll also find information on guests and performers and much more (it's bill as a "fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes"). Bob Stek's enthusiastic report on the 2014 event will be found on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/y8y3muvs>.
580. A passing mention of George Charles Haité, reported by Karen Murdock from a newspaper in New Zealand, led to an interesting discovery: Haité was a designer, painter, illustrator and writer who illustrated an article on "The History of the Strand" in the first (Jan. 1891) issue of The Strand Magazine and (far more important to Sherlockians) created the iconic image that graced the cover of the magazine for decades; it also appeared on the covers of the first British editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. There is an excellent entry about him at Wikipedia; his original artwork was on display at the "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" exhibition in London in 2014-2015, and is reproduced in the catalog of the exhibition (Quarterly Press) and in Alex Werner's book about the exhibition (Ebury).
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581. Nov 18 #2 The PM was dressed up as Sherlock Holmes for Halloween, according to a Huffington Post story <www.tinyurl.com/yaaxldar>, and was accompanied by his wife, costumed as a zombie bride. Add another name to the list of Sherlockian politicians: Justin Trudeau, the prime minister of Canada; there's a photograph of him as Sherlock Holmes in the article. And there was a report on Yahoo Canada Style that some Canadians were wondering what exactly might have been in Trudeau's pipe, two weeks after marijuana was legalized in Canada.
582. Further to the report (Sep 18 #4) on Canadian skater Stephen Gololev performing in an imaginative costume to music from the film "Sherlock Holmes" in a competition in Slovakia, Jennie Paton has found video of him competing at the Minto Summer Skate in Canada <www.tinyurl.com/ya9bsrhl>.

583. Edward J. Van Liere was a prolific contributor to Sherlockian literature in the 1950s and 1960s, and a co-founder of The Scion of the Four in Morgantown, W. Va., and a new book provides much more about his life and career. William A. Neal's QUIET ADVOCATE (Morgantown: West Virginia University Libraries, 2017; 264 pp., \$14.95) focuses on Van Liere's many contributions medical education in the state (where during the depression he was successful in establishing a four-year medical school). His Sherlockian writings were collected in A DOCTOR ENJOYS SHERLOCK HOLMES (1959), and he was a contributor to Michael Harrison's anthology BEYOND BAKER STREET (1976); Neal's biography has a fine chapter devoted to Van Liere as a Sherlockian.
584. For those who are into Sherlockian games, MMORPG notes that Wizard101 has released a "Great Detective" bundle starring Sherlock Bones and Dr. Rolf; details (and images) are at <www.tinyurl.com/y83gnxds> and (with video) at <www.tinyurl.com/y7zo7r26>.
585. "Can you solve the secret werewolf riddle?" is the riddle-of-the-month at TED-Ed, discovered and reported by Samantha Wolov; there's Sherlockian artwork, but otherwise it's not Sherlockian <www.tinyurl.com/yd4eg444>.
586. "I sent down to Stanford's for the Ordnance map," Sherlock Holmes said to Watson (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The iconic London bookshop, which was established by Edwin Stanford in 1853, is moving to a new location (just round the corner in Covent Garden); the Stanfords web-site has a section on the shop's history at <www.stanfords.co.uk/our-history>. If you don't recognize the name, that's because it's mis-spelled Stamford in many editions of the Canon.
587. Publicity for the "Holmes & Watson" film is gearing up: Kelly Blau kindly reported that the N.Y. Times published an interview with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly on Nov. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/y9am3fam>, including their explanation of how they chose who would play Holmes and who would play Watson.
588. "A box of Watson's memorabilia of Sherlock Holmes has been stolen from his club in Piccadilly," is the premise of the first in the Sherlock geocache series set in London <www.tinyurl.com/y97oylfe>, reported by Jennie Paton. Geocaching is the modern version of a Victorian outdoor recreational activity called letterboxing, participants now use GPS technology, and there's an excellent article about geocaching at Wikipedia.
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589. Nov 18 #3 Nicholas Utechin's THE COMPLETE PAGET PORTFOLIO (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2108; 274 pp., \$46.95) is a delightful tribute to Sidney Paget, offering high-quality reproductions of all his Sherlockian illustrations from The Strand Magazine, and (for the first time) an opportunity to see 22 (that's almost all) pieces of the original artwork known to have survived shown (in full color) side-by-side with the illustrations published in the magazine; the book also includes full-color portraits of Sherlock Holmes that weren't published in the Strand. Highly recommended. The publisher's web-site is at <www.gasogenebooks.com>, and you can listen to an interesting interview with Nick at <www.ihose.co/ihose156>.
590. Gasogene also has published Terence Faherty's THE TRUE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ANNOTATED EDITION (2018; 153 pp., \$19.95); it's a collection of his amusing "earlier drafts" of the stories, some of them reprinted from the annual Sherlockian issues of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and others new, and all great fun. Faherty's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian bibliography can be found at his web-site <www.terencefaherty.com>.
591. The long wait for Pokémon's "Detective Pikachu" film is scheduled for release on May 11; it's based on the company's Nintendo game, and there's an amusing 3-minute official trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/ybszxx68>.
592. Stan Lee died on Nov. 12. He was a legend in the world of comic books, and famous for creating a new world of super-heroes for Marvel Comics. In 2008 he told an interviewer that "There have been millions of detective stories over the years. Many of them are forgettable. Somehow Sherlock Holmes has endured, mainly because no one could write a detective story as brilliantly as Conan Doyle and nobody could come up with a character as interesting and flawed as Sherlock Holmes." And two years later he explained that "I know what I loved about Conan Doyle's work was he made his characters so real. I mean not only me, but the people that read Sherlock Holmes felt that they knew him." The "Marvel Preview" series (billed as "Stan Lee Presents") had a two-part "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1976, and he had author credit for "Spidey Super Stories: Sherlock Spidey" in The Electric Company in 1977.
593. The Strand Magazine (the modern version that's edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to offer a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise at its web-site, including an attractive and artistic wall calendar for next year (\$24.95); the URL is <www.strandmag.com/product/sherlockholmes-calendar-2019>.
594. "Live from the Red Carpet" is the title of the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" report on this year's "From Gillette to Brett" conference in Bloomington, Ind., on Oct. 5-7 <www.tinyurl.com/y9lyjjh5>. There were 150 people on hand for the festivities, and you can hear all about it at the podcast.
595. "I know perfectly well how unneptile you are about aunts," the late Ronald Knox wrote in his Miles Bredon novel DOUBLE CROSS PURPOSES (1937), Stu Nelan has noted (on p. 155 in his copy of the Dover edition), and he wonders just what "unneptile" means. Google is of no assistance, and it's possible that Knox, who enjoyed word-play, invented the word. Has anyone seen the word used anywhere else?
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596. Nov 18 #4 "American Is Killed by Bow and Arrow on Remote Indian Island" was the headline on the N.Y. Times article (Nov. 21) about the death of John Allen Chau, who attempted to go ashore on North Sentinel (one of the Andaman Islands) apparently in hopes of converting the tribesmen to Christianity. The Indian government has banned all access to the islands, and the seven fishermen who brought Chau to the island have been arrested and charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder; the government also has announced that although charges have been filed against "unknown persons" for killing Chau, it is virtually impossible to prosecute members of the protected tribes, or to recover his body.
597. Thanks to YouTube, admirers of the Brigadier Gerard can see him in action in "The Fighting Eagle" (1927) <www.tinyurl.com/ybx8ap8t>, and in "How the Brigadier Won His Medal" (1954) <www.tinyurl.com/y74nymv3>.
598. There's additional news for admirers of the Brigadier: the British Library has acquired the manuscripts for five of the first eight stories, and Randall Stock has a detailed report on the manuscripts, and their history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y8gmfu08>. The survival of the manuscripts was reported more than two years ago (Mar 16 #1), and it is nice indeed that they will now be readily available to scholars.
599. Melvin Ragin ("Wah Wah Watson") died on Oct. 24. A guitarist and session musician, he was famous for his skills with the wah-wah pedal and in 1976 recorded an LP album "Elementary" that showed him on the cover with deerstalker and calabash; you can see the cover and listen to an extended release version of the album at <www.tinyurl.com/y8cgxfau>.
600. Flicker Alley (the company that distributed the restored versions of William Gillette's 1916 "Sherlock Holmes" and Wallace Beery's 1925 "The Lost World") also offers "Douglas Fairbanks: A Modern Musketeer" (a 5-DVD set of digitally remastered versions of 11 films that include his 1916 "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish") (with Fairbanks as Coke Enneyday in Sherlockian costume) and a 22-page booklet with an essay about Fairbanks and his films by Jeffrey Vance and Tony Maietta (\$69.95) <www.flickeralley.com>. The set offers a grand opportunity to see some of Fairbanks' classic films (as well as one of the truly weird Sherlockian films).

602. The BoardRoom is a speakeasy (they're coming back into fashion, even though liquor's legal now) in Los Angeles <www.patinagroup.com/the-boardroom>, and Karen Murdoch spotted a story in the Los Angeles Times that noted that the cocktails are named after famous authors, including a "gin-forward Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (the recipe is Plymouth gin, Dolin Blanc, Braulio, orange bitters, and lemon peel). For those not versed in cocktails: Dolin Blanc's a vermouth, Braulio's a liqueur, and gin-forward appears to be a gin that's not flavor-added and thus tastes like juniper berries).
603. "Cats on the Page" is an exhibition at the British Library, that will run from Nov. 27 to Mar. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/y7cjc2vo>; you will have a chance to "renew your acquaintance with familiar favorites including Mog, Winnie and Wilbur, and T. S. Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats (the last of which includes "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" and "Gus: The Theatre Cat", both of interest to Sherlockians).
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604. Nov 18 #5 "Everyone needs a mother who keeps them grounded," according to Benedict Cumberbatch, who told GQ that he bounded home, full of excitement, after being told that he would be the next Sherlock Holmes, but he was soon put in his place. "The first thing my mother said when I mentioned I'd got the part was: 'You don't have the right nose.'" Noted by Karen Murdock in Patrick Kidd's "The Times Diary" in The Times on Nov. 2.
605. Juris Jurjevics died on Nov. 7. He had a long career in the publishing industry, and in 1986 was one of the founders of the Soho Press, to publish "books that deserve to be published, but that the bigger houses can't afford to do." His obituary in the N.Y. Times noted that earlier, as editor in chief for E. P. Dutton, he "scooped up a manuscript that had crossed his desk on a hunch that readers would clamor for a Sherlock Holmes revival." The novel was Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (1974).
606. Hospitality & Catering News reported on Oct. 13 www.tinyurl.com/yakcegyz that Adrian Martin, newly appointed Master Cook at Simpson's-in-the-Strand (an establishment mentioned in the Canon), has delved into its archives to create a spectacular new Bill of Fare. And it's spectacular indeed.
607. Basil Rathbone with two Hounds of the Baskervilles? Not quite, but there's an amusing signed photograph of Rathbone coming to auction at Written Word Autographs on Dec. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/y8kg4wnk>.
608. Further to the item (Apr 16 #4) on the metal plates apparently created in 1940 to celebrate Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, Greg Ruby has continued his research on "Sherlock Holmes and the American Bank Note Mystery" and posted his latest findings at the Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ycvgvpy7>.
609. Greg also notes <www.tinyurl.com/y7a7hdfm> the appointment of Hugh Laurie as CBE (that's Companion of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to drama in the 2018 New Year Honours List. Laurie read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio 2 (in 2002) and played the Holmes-inspired House in the long-running Fox television series, and will be seen as Mycroft in the film "Holmes & Watson" due in theaters in December.
610. Peter Brace died on Oct. 29. He began his long acting career in 1947, and went on to being a stuntman and stunt coordinator, with more than a hundred credits; he played the hangman in the 1990 television film "Hands of a Murderer" (also known as "Sherlock Holmes and the Prince of Crime").
611. Karen Murdock has noted an article in the Irish Times (Nov. 10) about how craft breweries are becoming creative with artwork on their cans. Yellowbelly Beer in Wexford offers an "It's Elementary" India Pale Ale that has Sherlockian artwork <www.yellowbellybeer.ie/beer-type/its-elementary>.
612. Visitors to Edinburgh might want to stay at the Sherlock Apartments at 14 Picardy Place; the three serviced apartments are named for Doyle, Watson, and Moriarty, with nicely modern furnishings (according to on-line images). You can see the Doyle Residence at <www.tinyurl.com/y7wklvrh>, the Moriarty Residence at <www.tinyurl.com/y8xp8y7a>, and all three with a Google search (Conan Doyle, it should be noted, was born at 11 Picardy Place).
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613. Nov 18 #6 George A. Cooper died on Nov. 16. He began his acting career on stage in Britain in the 1940s and then moved to television, performing for almost 50 years. He was Mr. Fawcett in "The Croyley Master" in the BBC series "The Stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (1967), Inspector Gregson in "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Greek Interpreter" in Peter Cushing's "Sherlock Holmes" series (1968), and Inspector Beedel in "The Missing Witness Sensation" in "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971).
614. Theatrics: John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol" is being performed at the Company OnStage in Houston, Texas, through Dec. 22 <www.companyonstage.org>.
615. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" on at the Runway Theatre in Grapevine, Texas, through Dec. 17 <www.runwaytheatre.com>; and at the Richardson Theatre Centre in Richardson, Texas, through Dec. 23 <www.richardsontheatrecentre.net>. It's also scheduled at the Performing Arts Center in Tarpon Springs, Fla., Dec. 8-16 <www.tarponarts.org>.
616. Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Salterton Playhouse in Salterton, Devon, Dec. 3-8 <www.saltertondrama.co.uk>.
617. Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Colonnade Theatre in Ringgold, Ga., Dec. 6-8 <www.colonnadecenter.org>.
618. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at Theatre Lawrence in Lawrence, Kans., Jan. 18-27 <www.wp.theatrelawrence.com>. Also at Stage West in Fort Worth, Texas, May 30-June 20 <www.sagewest.org>.
619. "Sherlock Holmes: Das Musical" (Holmes and Watson investigate their first case) will premiere (in German) at the First Stage Theater in Hamburg Jan. 20, 2019 <www.sherlockholmes-musical.de>; it's billed as "ein rasantes Musical über Liebe, Tod und Leidenschaft".
620. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Black Box Theatre in LaGrange, Ga., Jan. 24-Feb. 2 <www.lsparts.org>; at the Hill Country Community Theatre in Cottonwood Shore, Tex., Feb. 14-Mar. 3 <www.thehcct.org>; at the Studio Theatre in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Mar. 29-Apr. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/ybcw83r6>; at the Falcon Theatre in Newport, Ky., May 3-18 <www.falcontheatre.net>; and at the Bellevue Little Theatre in Bellevue, Neb., May 3-19 <www.bellevuelittletheatre.weebly.com>. Also at the Lowe Auditorium in Upper Ferntree Gully, Vic., Aug. 8-31; web-site at <www.1812theatre.com.au>.
621. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Regis Centre in Bognor Regis, West Sussex, Feb. 7-9, 2019 <www.regiscentre.co.uk>.
622. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Music" (performed by the Nashville Symphony) is scheduled at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/yc75uvxe>.
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623. Dec 18 #1 There is still time to reserve for many of the events during the birthday festivities in New York (although the Saturday cocktail reception has sold out, and no tickets will be available at the door); details are available at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/2018/11/20/the-2019-bsi-weekend>.
624. Flicker Alley has announced that its deluxe Blu-ray/DVD dual-format edition of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929) will be released on Feb. 5, and there is a pre-order sale price of \$29.95 <www.tinyurl.com/y9qh6zjs>; this is the last Sherlockian silent film, directed by Richard Oswald, and the bonus

- materials will include Oswald's earlier "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1914), as well as original commentary on the story and on the restoration, and an illustrated booklet with an essay by film historian Russell Merritt.
625. "There's a fundamental principle of law that derives from Sherlock Holmes, which is the dog that didn't bark," Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito said during an argument on Nov. 26; the case involved jurisdiction on Native American land in Oklahoma, and you can read the details in an article in *The Economist* (Nov. 28) <www.tinyurl.com/ya8qyrkv>.
 626. "The Vampire of the Lyceum" (a short-story pastiche written by Charles Veley and Anna Elliott) is available (free) as text and read by Simon Prebble at their web-site <www.sherlockandlucy.com/the-vampire-of-the-lyceum>.
 627. Big Chief Studios reports that production has been completed on their licensed figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman in costume from "The Abominable Bride" are now on their way from China and should be available for Christmas shopping <www.tinyurl.com/ycgvdqaf>.
 628. Thomas Mann's *A CHRISTMAS CAROL AT 221B* (League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, 2018; 21 pp., \$5.50 at Amazon) is a nicely seasonal (and Dickensian) pastiche.
 629. Oscar Ross observed the Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the Dec. 2018 issue of *Philosophy Now* <www.philosophynow.org>; the issue's cover story is Tim Weldon's "The Forgiving Reason: The Secret of Sherlock Holmes' Success" (which explores the links between Holmes and Blaise Pascal) and there's also Carol Nicholson's "Ockham's Rose" (in which she discusses Umberto Eco's *THE NAME OF THE ROSE*). Both articles can be read at the web-site.
 630. Howard Ostrom has now identified more than 4,300 actors who have appeared as Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, radio, television, the Internet, and elsewhere. His *SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREENS 1929-1939* (the first volume of his *Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia*) appeared earlier this year (Oct 18 #2), and you can hear him discuss the project in the latest "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/ybsIndo3>.
 631. The Canon has many mentions of fog, and today's readers might not know just what a "London particular" really was like. The *MiceTimes* of Asia had an interesting illustrated article on Dec. 8 about the "great smog" that enveloped London for four days in December 1952, when 12,000 people died and more than 100,000 were injured <www.tinyurl.com/ybxecqcg>.
 632. Dec 18 #2 Responding to the query about "unneptile" (Nov. 18 #3), Steve Rothman suggests a bit of word-play on "neptis" (in Latin). It should be oted that "neptis" can mean "niece" as well as "grand-daughter" and that a nephew is "nepote" or "nepos" (giving us the word "nepotism"). Stu Nelan reports that Miles Bredon is speaking to his wife Angela, about her aunt, so Angela would be the niece (and "unneptile" would be a coinage by Ronald Knox for "not niece-ish").
 633. *SHERLOCK* and *SHERLOCK DELUXE* are memory games designed by Reinhard Staupe, first issued in 2009 for ages 5 to adult. *SHERLOCK* (\$10.00) has 49 cards, and *SHERLOCK DELUXE* (\$15.00) has 60 cards and a small Sherlockian figurine. The games are made by PlayRoom Entertainment for Ultra-PRO Entertainment, and are available at Amazon and elsewhere.
 634. All sorts of things turn up on YouTube. Howard Ostrom has noted two videos produced by the Columbia University Libraries Preservation Committee: "Murder in the Stacks" (1987) and "Shedding Light on the Case" (1990), with David Chapman (Sherlock Holmes) showing David Bowman (Dr. Watson) the proper techniques of preservation. You can search for the videos by their titles at <www.youtube.com>.
 635. Two pieces of artwork showing Snoopy in Sherlockian costume from the television program "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (1974) were offered at Heritage Auctions on Dec. 9: a production cel <www.tinyurl.com/y9fwzws> sold for \$1,800 (including the 20% buyer's premium), and aa graphite animation drawing <www.tinyurl.com/yd2o2bqd> sold for \$780 (ditto). Both were signed by Bill Melendez, who produced the program and provided voices for Snoopy and Woodstock.
 636. Denis Norden died on Sept. 19. Famous (sometimes notorious) for his often-ribald sense of humor, he had a long career on British radio and television and was a successful screenwriter as well; he wrote the screenplay for "The Best House in London" (1969), an X-rated film (because it was that sort of house) remarkable for a very short scene that included uncredited performances by Peter Jeffrey as Holmes and Thorley Walters as Watson.
 637. Michael Robertson's *A BAKER STREET WEDDING* (New York: Minotaur, 2018; 291 pp., \$26.99) is the sixth in his series about Reggie and Nigel Heath, who have their offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires them to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail; Reggie's marriage to Laura Rankin puts them both in unexpected and dire peril, and they are rescued by Reggie's law clerk Lois and a thoroughly intriguing character who has made a minor appearance in a previous book but now comes into his own (no spoiler here, but Sherlockians won't be fooled for very long).
 638. "Do not destroy the Strand," was the plea from Nancy Bass Wyden, owned of the Strand Bookstore, which has been a destination for visitors to New York since it opened in 1927. "18 miles of books" is the slogan of the store, and those miles include a separate section for rare books located on an upper floor. The city wants to declare the bookshop's building an official city landmark, but the owner believes that landmarking would result in the death of the business. You can read all about it in an article in the *N.Y. Times* (Dec. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/y8x6x2nk>, kindly note by Samantha Wolov.
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639. Dec 18 #3 Ron Fish's *Sherlockian Calendar* www.sherlockiancalendar.com is a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what is happening when and where, and it offers an interesting look at how many society events are being held hither and yon. You should contact Ron <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.
 640. It's not all that often that *The New Yorker* offers an image of Sherlock Holmes on its cover (in fact, this the first time ever): the Dec. 24 "Power Issue" has Barry Blitt's "Elementary" tribute to the ongoing investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller; you can see the cover in full color (and with Blitt's preliminary sketch) at <www.tinyurl.com/ycsvesb5>.
 641. Vicki Delany's *A SCANDAL IN SCARLET* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2018; 293 pp., \$26.99) is the fourth in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the Sherlock bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (who manages the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room). The pastiche begins with a mysterious fire at the local house museum, and needless to say there are murders and a complicated plot. The author has more than one series going, and her web-site's at <www.vickidelany.com>.
 642. "A four of gin hot" is Scott Monty's Canonical introduction to his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" post about Sherlock & Sons Gin; it's a new brand of small-batch products from Distillers of Surrey, founded by Simon Sherlock. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y95wyp6d>.
 643. Barbara S. Koelle died on Nov. 28. She married her husband Jack in 1948, and for decades shared his many interests; she also was a gourmet cook, an avid reader, and a keen collector of children's book, and was a long-time member of the International Wizard of Oz Club, serving as a member of its board of directors, its president, and editor of its magazine *The Baum Bugle*. She was honored by *The Baker Street Irregulars* as *The Woman in 1982*.
 644. The January-February issue of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork by Nataša Illinčić on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, a new story about the Amlingmeyer brothers by Steve

- Hockensmith, a pastiche by Keith Hann (with artwork by Jason C. Eckhardt), a Sherlockian cartoon by Scott Masear, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
645. A bit more about T. S. Eliot's OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS: there is a registered charity called Old Possum's Practical Trust, established by Valerie Eliot in 1990 <www.old-possums-practical-trust.org.uk>.
646. Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki's long and distinguished career includes his work on the 1984 Japanese-Italian television series "Meitantei Homuzu" ["Famous Detective Holmes"], widely available in English as "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"; Miyazaki directed the first six episodes, and they're great fun. Jenne Paton reports an interesting video by Stevem at YouTube about "Miyazaki's Forgotten Gem" <www.tinyurl.com/yc6bwhpk>.
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647. Dec 18 #4 From manga to the stage: the Anime News Network reports (Dec. 21) that Ryōsuke Takeuchi and Hikaru Miyoshi's "Yūkoku no Moriarty" ["Moriarty the Patriot"] manga has inspired a stage musical that will be performed in Tokyo and Osaka in May <www.tinyurl.com/y9ts25js>; the manga debuted in 2016 and stars James Moriarty, an orphan who is adopted into the Moriarty family. The musical will star Shōgo Suzuki (William James Moriarty) and Ryō Hirano (Sherlock Holmes). There's a brief trailer for the musical at <www.tinyurl.com/ybulmd4>.
648. Further to the report (Oct 18 #3) that THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has now been published by the Folio Society, there was a post on Dec. 5 at the Flavorwire web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yazqhzzy> that offers a look at some of the artwork, and at Michael Dirda's introduction.
649. Tim Dedopoulos' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE CARD CHALLENGE (Carlton, 2018; \$14.95) is a colorful box of 60 decorative cards with logical puzzles that are only marginally Sherlockian.
650. John Wulp died on Nov. 27. He was a playwright, producer, director, visual artist, designer, and educator, and in 1979 was nominated for a Tony Award as scenic designer for "The Crucifer of Blood" (which starred Paxton Whitehead and Glenn Close).
651. The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes debuted in Columbus, Ohio, in 2014, and after touring in the United States and in other countries, now is at the Library Science Center in Jersey City, N.J. through May 27, and well worth a visit. There are spectacular Sherlockian and Doylean items on display, and a murder mystery (written by Dan Stashower) to solve, and you can listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's interview with exhibition creators Amy Noble Seitz and Geoffrey Curley at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast at <www.tinyurl.com/y7bn6cjj>.
652. Gyles Brandreth, author of seven murder mysteries that feature Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde, has written a new short story that them at a festive party at Buckingham Palace; the story was published, with colorful illustrations, in the Mail on Sunday on Dec. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/yddea86y>.
653. "Sherlock Holmes, John Watson, and a Christmas Gift of Friendship" is the title of Colin Fleming's warm holiday tribute, accompanied by some striking artwork, in the Daily Beast on Dec. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/y8rhozbo>.
654. The copyright clock continues to tick: at the end of this year "The Creeping Man" (published in 1923) will enter the public domain. Only the final nine Sherlock Holmes stories will be protected by copyright, and the last of them will enter the public domain at the end of 2022.
655. Further to the report (Sep 18 #7) on a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel had cited evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912), the BBC reported on Dec. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/y9jrdk9w> that the developer has withdrawn its appeal against the National Park Authority's decision to reject the proposal to demolish the hotel. The NPA said it would seek to recover its costs of preparing for a public hearing scheduled in January.
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656. Dec 18 #5 The two volumes of THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: SOME UNTOLD CASES, edited by David Marcum, are the latest additions to his excellent series of anthologies, and they will be welcomed by those who believe that traditional short stories are the best way to visit Holmes and Watson again (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 405/415 pp., \$44.95 each); there are new short stories, poems, and a radio script, all offering imaginative accounts of cases only mentioned in the Canon. MX's books are available at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
657. Also from MX: Tim Symonds' A MOST DIABOLICAL PLOT (2018; 156 pp., \$12.95) is a collection of six pastiches reprinted from volumes of David Marcum's THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES; his other Sherlockian work can be found at his web-site <www.tim-symonds.co.uk>.
658. Tom Bidwell, whose television adaptation of Richard Adams' "Watership Down" debuted on BBC One this month, has told the BBC Writersroom that his next project will be a Netflix series titled "The Irregulars" that will focus on a group of street urchins whose crime-solving success a drug-addict Holmes takes credit for; the interview's at <www.tinyurl.com/ydxgqwh>.
659. Too late for this year, but in plenty of time for next year: Stephanie Urban has found amusing artwork by David Price on a "Sherlock Holmes Christmas" card from Allport Editions <www.allport.com/products/1873>.
660. The Chautauqua Institution, founded in 1874, offers a wide variety of summer educational programs, and Bob Coghill and Christopher Redmond discussed Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle at Chautauqua's Hall of Philosophy on Aug. 23, 2000; Jennie Paton has kindly reported a 35-minute video of the discussion at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6psB3rmNoBE>.
661. The Beacon Society works to provide teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with resources "to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life," and their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com> is well worth exploring. Click on "additional resources" and then on "beacon booklist" to see an interesting list of recommended books for younger Sherlockians to enjoy and use for research purposes.
662. Deadline Hollywood reported on Dec. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/yaccj5fo> that the CBS-TV series "Elementary" will end its run after the seventh season, due to air in 2019. Created by Rob Doherty, the series stars Jonny Lee Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as Watson, and at the end of the seventh season will have set a record of 154 episodes for a Sherlockian television series; only Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce have played Holmes and Watson more often and for more hours, screen and on the radio.
663. The District Messenger is the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, now edited by Jean Upton and as always interesting and informative, has reported in its latest (382nd) issue on some news from the U.S.: Ceylan Yeginsu, on the N.Y. Times' ReaderCenter on Twitter, recently asked readers about their experiences with petty crime in London; according to Jean, "one person reported that a red-headed man hired him to copy out the Encyclopedia Britannica, but it turned out to be a scam." The newsletter (and much more) is available at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.
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664. Dec 18 #6 The play's the thing (as Shakespeare wrote): Bart Lovins' "The Novel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet" is a new production of a dramatization performed at Expanded Arts in New York in 1998, now being produced again at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., Jan. 17-27 <www.thepac.net>.
665. Kevin O'Brien's "Sherlock Holmes and the Temple of Doom" will be performed by Upstage Productions <www.upstageproductions.com> at the Carterville Community Center in Carterville, Ill., on Jan. 18; the dinner theater mystery is billed as "Sherlock Holmes, Nancy Drew, Lt. Columbo, and the

- Scooby Doo Gang are on a wild and dangerous treasure hunt, but so is the amazing archeologist Louisiana Jones." The company has another play titled "No Schick, Sherlock" (Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson come through many a close shave as they investigate "The Case of the Slashing Razor").
666. Jami-Leigh Bartschi's musical "My Dear Watson" is due at the Edge Theater in Chicago, Ill. Feb. 5-23 <www.cmtf.org>.
667. Nick Scovell's "Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at Ferneham Hall in Fareham, Hants., Feb. 20-24 <www.fernehamhall.co.uk>.
668. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Dying to Say I Do" is a new play scheduled at the Diamond Theatre in Ligonier, Pa., Mar. 1-3 <www.diamondtheatre.com>.
669. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at the Commonweal Theatre in Lanesboro, Minn., Apr. 5-July 6 <www.commonwealtheatre.org>.
670. Rick Robinson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sign of the Four" is scheduled at the Oregon Cabaret Theater in Ashland, Ore., Apr. 11-May 26; web-site is at <www.theoregoncabaret.com>.
671. K. C. Brown's "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" will be performed at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville, Md., May 3-12 <www.rlt-online.org>.
672. Margaret Raether's new play "Sherlock Holmes & the Precarious Position" is scheduled at the Cheek Theater at Rockford University in Rockford, Ill., on May 9-26 <www.artistsensemble.org>. "Whistling in the Dark" (her dramatization of "The Speckled Band"), performed in 2017, was broadcast by Northern Public Radio on July 15, 2017; podcast at <www.tinyurl.com/ycjt3aou>.
673. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn., Mar. 23-31 <www.warnertheatre.org>. Also at the Ashland University Studio Theatre in Ashland, Ohio, Apr. 5-7; web-site at <www.ashland.edu>. And at the Firehouse Theater in Alliance, Ohio, May 10-19 <www.carnationcityplayers.com>.
674. Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" will premiere at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, July 11-14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org> (the play is inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green).

Jan 19 #1

1. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 165th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 9 to 13; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and detailed reports on most of them will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. But in the meantime, here are few brief paragraphs to tide you over:
2. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Ken Ludwig, award-winning author of three Sherlockian (and many more non-Sherlockian) plays; he reported that he has just completed work on his newest play "Moriarty" (in the five-actor format of "Baskerville") and hopes it will be produced in the near future.
3. The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Evelyn Herzog proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to Nelda Richards as The Woman. This was followed by the presentation of a Festschrift to a thoroughly-surprised member of the BSI who was celebrating the 60th anniversary of his Investiture; immodestly, the editor of this newsletter says "let me recommend this book," which is available (80 pp., \$19.95) from the BSI at <www.tinyurl.com/yb5z9frc>.
4. The annual dinner's agenda included the usual toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the "Wiggins" of the BSI) presented Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Alexander Katz ("Sarasate"), John Knud-Hansen ("This Lascar Scoundrel"), Brigitte Latella ("Holmes's Alpenstock"), Michele Lopez ("Attenta, Pericolo"), Ira B. Matetsky ("The Final Problem"), Terry McCammon ("Young Stamford"), Mike McSwiggin ("A Seven Percent Solution"), Greg D. Ruby ("Bulldog Pin with Ruby Eyes"), and Monica Schmidt ("Julia Stoner").
5. Mike Whelan then announced that Mike Kean had been appointed to the office of "Commissionaire" to serve one year, and the end of which he will become the BSI's new "Wiggins". Mike Kean will be only the sixth person to lead the BSI since it was founded by Christopher Morley in 1934.
6. The Baker Street Irregulars also have published a second title in the Professions Series that was launched with Nerve and Knowledge in 2015. The new book is Canon Law: Lawyers, Law, and the Sherlockian Canon, edited by William A. Walsh and Donny Zaldin (2018; 206 pp., \$39.95), and it offers a wide-ranging look at many of the legal (and illegal) aspects of the world of Sherlock Holmes, including a transcript of what might have happened if he were to have been tried for some of his infringements of the law.
7. The latest title in the BSI's Manuscript Series is Deadly Harpoon, edited by Glen Miranker (2018; 168 pp., \$39.95), which offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "Black Peter", an annotated transcript, and interesting commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the world in which the Great Detective lived when he was involved in the case. It is of course thoroughly appropriate that the volume has been edited by the fortunate owner of the manuscript. More information about both books, including the tables of contents, can be found at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.
8. Jan 19 #2 It should be noted that there is much more to see at the BSI's web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>, such as information about The Baker Street Journal, which now appears five times a year (there are four quarterly issues and a Christmas Annual that's available only to subscribers). The 2018 Christmas Annual reported on the colorful history of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibitions in London in 1951 and then in New York in 1952, and the 2019 Christmas Annual will be a tribute to the late William S. Baring-Gould.
9. And, for those who want to plan ahead, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will hold its annual dinner on Jan. 11, 2020, in London, and the BSI will hold their annual dinner on Jan. 17, 2020, in New York.
10. With regard to Canon Law, those who recall that William Shakespeare wrote (in Henry VI), "the first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers," should also remember that those words were spoken by Dick the Butcher, who was in rebellion against the king, and that the rebels then managed only to kill a county clerk.
11. Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via email) 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).
12. Gasogene Books has published Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 4, January-June 1894, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström, Mark Alberstat, Leah Guinn, and Matt Laffey (2019; 202 pp., \$34.95); there are more editors now, quite understandable considering the wealth of material about Holmes and Conan Doyle in the ever-expanding data-bases of digitized newspapers and magazines <www.gasogenebooks.com>.
13. Those who have bought Nicholas Utechin's splendid The Complete Paget Portfolio (Nov 18 #3), still available from Gasogene and still highly recommended, will be interested in a recent message from Nick: some of his text did not make it into the final version of the book, and he will be happy to send the text by email so that you can print it out and insert it into your copy; you can reach Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.
14. More news from the birthday festivities: Nicholas Meyer announced the discovery of another missing manuscript: The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols, which will be published later this year (the 45th anniversary of the publication of his The Seven-Per-Cent Solution).

15. The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, in Dallas, has published a sequel to its A Grimm Sherlock Holmes (Dec 17 #2). A Grimmer Sherlock Holmes, edited by Steve Mason, is the society's second anthology of fairy-tale pastiches; it is a 179-page e-book, offering pastiches and the fairy tales on which they are based, nicely available without charge at <www.tinyurl.com/y9oqdroc>.
16. "Literary Figures Who Can't Commit" in the N.Y. Times Book Review on Jan. 20 offered graphic artist Ali Fitzgerald's illustrations of Captain Ahab, Edward Rochester, Mary Poppins, the White Rabbit, and Sherlock Holmes; you can see them all at <www.tinyurl.com/y97b8lgp>.

17. Jan 19 #3 Plan ahead: the latest issue of The Bowling Green (the newsletter of The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State) announces an excursion to Oxford in May 2021, commemorating Christopher Morley's first year as a Rhodes Scholar at the University. Details will be available (eventually) from Terry Hunt <18goldini95@gmail.com>.
18. The UCLA Film and Television Archive has announced a collaborative worldwide search for missing or deteriorating Sherlockian films that will lead to the films' restoration, and the project is being coordinated by Barbara Roisman Cooper, who is a member of The Baker Street Irregulars as well as the Archive's board; if you would like further information or to join the volunteer committee that's working on the project, you can contact Barbara at <peninc1@aol.com>. UCLA has the second-largest moving-image archive in the United States (after the Library of Congress), and has worked on Sherlockian films in the past: restoring from nitrate originals and preserving the classic Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce films, with funding from UCLA, Warner Bros., and Hugh Hefner.
19. Barbara S. Koelle died on Nov. 28. She married Jack Koelle in 1948, and like her husband was an avid book collector, enthusiastic about children's books and especially the world of the Wizard of Oz. Barbara was a member of the board of directors of the International Wizard of Oz Club and she served as its president and as editor of its magazine The Baum Bugle. She was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as The Woman in 1982.
20. Plan ahead: the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, which is scheduled for Oct. 12-13 in Portland, Ore., promises "a weekend of scholarship and camaraderie" in the image of the Scintillation of Scions, 221B Con, and other Sherlockian conferences. Planning is underway, registration is open, and there's more information at their web-site at <www.leftcoastsherlock.com>.
21. The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, were created in 1981, and traditionally are awarded the day before the Oscars. This year's nominations have been announced, and "Holmes & Watson" has been nominated in six of the nine categories: worst picture; worst actor (Will Ferrell); worst supporting actor (John C. Reilly); worst screen combo (Ferrell and Reilly); worst remake, rip-off, or sequel; and worst director (Etan Cohen). There's plenty of competition for each award, and the winners will be announced on Feb. 23.
22. For those who came in late, "Holmes & Watson" has won negative (sometimes scathing) reviews from critics, audiences, and Sherlockians, and (so far), according to the Box Office Mojo web-site, has grossed less than its estimated production budget of \$42 million. It has been reported that Netflix turned down the film, and that it likely will be available on DVD in March for those who want to find fault with it, or to enjoy watching Hugh Laurie overact as Mycroft.
23. The National (based in the United Arab Emirates) ran an article on Jan. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/yaop68m2> about "How Do Film Studios React When They Know They've Made a Dud?" (there have been many other films that foundered; it is interesting that some major newspapers, including the Washington Post, never bothered to review the film).

24. Jan 19 #4 Netflix has announced plans for a new live-action Sherlockian Television series called "The Irregulars" (to be produced by the Canadian company Muse Entertainment); Tom Bidwell, who will be writing the series, has said, "what if Sherlock Holmes was a drug addict and a delinquent and the kids solve the whole case whilst he takes credit?" Bidwell's adaptation of "Watership Down" aired on BBC One last month, and he talked about that (and about "The Irregulars") in a BBC Writersroom interview on Dec. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/ydxgpqwh>. Muse produced four Sherlockian television films that starred Matt Frewer as Holmes: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2000), "The Sign of Four" (2001), "Royal Scandal" (2001), and The Case of the Whitechapel Vampire" (2002).
25. The television series will be based on four graphic novels written by Tony Lee and illustrated by Dan Boulwood that were published Franklin Watts in 2011; their graphic novels already have been dramatized by Eric Coble as a two-act play "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" that premiered in Milwaukee, Wis., in 2014; it has had regional productions elsewhere and the script is available from Dramatic Publishing.
26. David L. Hammer ("Major-General Stoner") died on Dec. 27. He had a long career as a lawyer, and was launched as a Sherlockian author in 1983 with the publication of his splendid The Game Is Afoot: A Travel Guide to the England of Sherlock Holmes, the first of a long series of books about his world-wide travels in the footsteps of Holmes. He was the founder of the Gasogene Press, and presided over an interesting Sherlockian workshop in Dubuque. Scott Monty has a warm tribute to David at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/ya92lg7w>, with a link to Gael Stahl's interview with Dave for the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.
27. One of the interesting things about modern technology is that the Internet makes it possible to find productions of Sherlockian plays just about anywhere. Howard Ostrom notes Ken Ludwig's "Sherlok Holms dhe Langoi i Baskervillëve" at the Metropol Theater in Tirana, Albania, Dec. 13, 2018-Feb. 3, 2019 <www.tinyurl.com/y92nmucv>.
28. The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2018 has "War and Peace" as its theme, with contributions that include pastiches, essay, and artwork, all related to appropriate aspects of the Canon; the 60-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, can be ordered from Phillip (at 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304), and the cost is \$10.00 postpaid (checks payable to the Norwegian Explorers, please). Anyone outside the U.S. should contact Phillip <pgberman@gmail.com> to ask about the postpaid cost.
29. Peter Calamai ("The Leeds Mercury") died on Jan. 22. A distinguished Canadian journalist, Peter was awarded membership in the Order of Canada in 2014, honoring his achievements as a science journalist and his contributions to the cause of literacy. He drew upon his expertise in journalism for many of his contributions to Canonical scholarship, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2005, and was the winner of the BSI's Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article published in The Baker Street Journal in 2012.

30. Jan 19 #5 The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include Bradley Harper's A Knife in the Fog (for best first novel by an American author) and Leslie S. Klinger's Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s (for best critical/biographical). The winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 25.
31. The Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft and the Austrian town of Feldkirch will celebrate Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 160th birthday with an excursion to Feldkirch on May 23-26 (Conan Doyle studied at the Jesuit College of Stella Matutina from 1875 to 1876). More information on the event is available at <www.dshc.de/dshg-jahresreise-2019>, all in German (as the conference will be).
32. The Fourth Garrideb will hold its "Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes Dinner" in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Mar. 29, during the American Numismatic Association's National Money Show; there's more information about the event at <www.tinyurl.com/y9nhndby>.

33. Russell Baker died on Jan. 21. He was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who worked most of his career for the N.Y. Times, as a reporter and as a columnist. He also succeeded Alistair Cooke as host of "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS, introducing programs from 1993 to 2004; none of the programs were Sherlockian, but he often found reason to mention (and praise) Holmes and Conan Doyle.
34. The British Royal Mint has announced that it will issue a 50p coin honoring Sherlock Holmes this year, and the coin already is available for purchase in an annual set that includes all of this year's coins, in various metals; details on the coin, the sets, and an illustration, will be found at the Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc89akeo>. Of course the Royal Mint hopes that collectors (and speculators) will pursue the expensive annual sets, but it will be worthwhile waiting: Greg has learned that individual coins will be available later this year at more modest prices. It is unlikely, however, that the coins will turn up in pocket change.
35. The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$600 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds>.
36. Windsor Davies died on Jan. 17. Born in Wales, he began his acting career on stage in 1961 and went on to work in film and television and as a voice actor in commercials. He played Inspector Illingworth in a dramatization of Max Pemberton's "The Ripening Rubies" (1971), with Bernard Sutton as Robert Lang, in the ITV television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes".
37. The Chicago Philharmonic has an interesting afternoon program coming up on Mar. 24, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie: "Silent Sherlock" will offer Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr.," (1924), Koko the Clown's "Fadeaway" (1926), and Felix the Cat's "SureLocked Holmes" (1928) (the first and third films being Sherlockian), with live orchestral accompaniment <www.chicagophilharmonic.org/silent-sherlock>.

38. Jan 19 #6 Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" on at Cheney Hall in Manchester, Conn., through Feb. 17 <www.cheneyhall.org>. It also is due at the Granite Theatre in Westerly, R.I., Mar. 22-Apr. 7 <www.granitetheatre.com>.
39. Richard Lavin's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Impaled Whaler" will be performed at the Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Feb. 15-23 <www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas>.
40. David Stuart Davies' new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Reckoning" will debut at the Assembly Roxy in Edinburgh, Feb. 25-Mar. 2; there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/y8dlfbp4>.
41. Mike Grogan's "Life After Sherlock" (billed as "a tale of blackmail, murder, suicide, deceit, and treasure, all in two acts") is touring in Britain with performances scheduled at the Alton Assembly Rooms in Alton on May 25, the Hanger Farm Arts Centre in Southampton on May 31, the Capitol Theatre in Horsham on June 7, and the Petersfield Festival Hall in Petersfield on June 15. Devil's Drum Productions seems to be the producer, but doesn't have a working web-site; a Google search will help. Mike Grogan can be seen at <<https://twitter.com/mikegroganmusic>>.
42. If you haven't heard already, postage prices have gone up again: a firstclass letter now costs 55¢ (up from 50¢), so subscriptions to this newsletter will cost more, for those few remaining subscribers willing to pay for the privilege of opening envelopes rather reading the newsletter online (or printing it themselves). The second ounce of a first-class letter now costs 15¢ (down from 21¢), and delivery outside the U.S. does not cost more (yet).
43. Finally: if you have noticed slight differences between this month's issue and past issues, that's because this month's issue was created on my newer computer, a change required by the hospitalization of my older MS-DOS computer, and the need to find an exorcist, a resurrectionist, and a wizard to bring me firmly into the 21st century. If you did not notice any differences, that is because I was easily able to find someone who combines all three skills, and has been able to show me how to use Microsoft Word instead of Volkswriter 3, and to write my newsletter on my newer Windows 10 computer. The font is slightly different (TrueType's Courier New isn't quite the same as dot-matrix Courier), but I'm delighted that I still can pretend that I'm using a typewriter (as I did when I started writing paragraphs to John Bennett Shaw in the now-distant 1970s). Some day you might see things such as proportional spacing and dingbats, but the world (this one, at least) is not quite prepared for that.
44. A few things, including some very recent paragraphing, have vanished, but I expect to catch up sooner rather than later. My Wizard has told me that there's a way to run my older software on my newer computer, so it's possible (but not likely) that this slightly-more-modern look may vanish. If there's anything I've forgotten to remember, please let me know.

45. Feb 19 #1 The Baker Street Irregulars Press and the BSI Trust will hold a book fair on Apr. 27 at the Chatham-Summit Quaker Friends Meeting House in Chatham, N.J., from noon to 4:00 pm, offering books from the various BSI Press series, and used books and other Sherlockiana that have been donated to the Trust. More information is available from Denny Dobry <dendobry@ptd.net>; the nearest train station is NJ Transit's Chatham Station on the Morristown Line, from Penn Station in New York, and Denny will be happy to arrange shuttle transportation from the Chatham Station on request.
46. If you can't make it to New Jersey, or just can't wait, you can send your want-list to Denny; the BSI Trust inventory includes a wide range of Sherlockian and Doylean material, offered at reasonable prices. Proceeds will be used to maintain the BSI Archives at the Lilly Library at the University of Indiana.
47. Heritage Auctions is offering the Otto Penzler Collection of Mystery Fiction, beginning with Part One on Mar. 6 in New York; there are some splendid items in the auction, and their web-site includes a short video showing his magnificent library <www.tinyurl.com/y26mkns>.
48. If you have been thinking about subscribing to the Baker Street Journal, now's the time to decide to do so, before the spring issue goes to press at the end of March. Subscribers will receive all five issues, including the Christmas Annual, which will be a tribute both to the late William S. Baring-Gould and to his The Annotated Sherlock Holmes. Strike while the iron's hot: go to <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> to subscribe (and find much else of interest).
49. Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, and there's still time to see it at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., where it will run through May 27 <www.lsc.org>. The exhibition was created by the Exhibits Development Group, and Ross Davies notes that there's an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where you can see how the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display.
50. Greg Ruby discusses "Holmes & Watson in the Great War" (emphasizing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce's military medals) in the Numismatist (Feb. 2019) <www.onlinedigitalpublishing.com/publication/?i=562102&vr=html5&p=50>.
51. Pokémon's "Detective Pikachu" film is scheduled for release on May 10, but Warner Bros. is so enthusiastic about the film that work has started on a sequel, according to the Hollywood Reporter (Jan. 25); you can see Pikachu in Sherlockian costume in a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/ybsz68>.
52. You can now register for the "Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" conference on Aug. 8-11 in Minneapolis; this is the triennial conference sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the University of Minnesota, and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections. For more information (and a registration form), visit <www.norwegianexplorers.org>.

53. Feb 19 #2 Dame June Whitfield died on Dec. 28. She began her acting career on stage in 1944 and went on to work in films and on ra-dio and television; she was best known for her appearance in the television series "Absolutely Fabulous", and played Mrs. Hudson and other female parts in Roy Hudd's "The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC Radio 2 in 1999. She was appointed OBE in 1985, CBE in 1998, and then Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2017, for services to drama and entertainment.
 54. John Linsmeyer has relayed Michael Quigley's report on the Jezail Bullet, an interesting cocktail with a nicely Canonical name and a Sherlockian history Lyndsay Faye commissioned her husband Gabriel Lehner (who does this sort of thing professionally) to create a specialty cocktail for the Baker Street Babes' "Daintiest Bee Under Your Bonnet Ball" at The Players during the birthday festivities in 2015. Laurie Fraser Manifold provided attractive artwork, and the cocktail is reported to have met with universal approval; you can find a readable, downloadable, and printable version of artwork and recipe at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>.
 55. "One Book/One Community" is an annual program sponsored by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, and this year they have chosen The Hound of the Baskervilles. The program includes an exhibition titled "Who's Your Holmes?" at Louisiana State University's Hill Memorial Library through May 31; the material on display is drawn from the LSU Libraries' Russell A. Mann Sherlock Holmes Research Collection. More information about the program and the exhibition is available at <www.tinyurl.com/ygc4tmnn>, and there's an inventory of the collection at <www.tinyurl.com/y9a2zfvc>.
 56. Registration is now open for the "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" gathering on Mar. 29-30 in Dayton, Ohio; details will be found at the web-site of the Agra Treasurers <www.agratreasurers.net/holmes--doyle---friends.html>.
 57. Stephen Fry's recording "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" has been uploaded to YouTube in 17 parts, and may still be available for download at <www.youtube.com/channel/UC4pYq9_yvIV8vfZzzwFY8Nw>. This will be of interest to people in the U.S., where the version offered by Audible is not complete because of copyright restrictions. The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes is in parts 16 and 17.
 58. "It's Elemental, My Dear Watson," according to an advertisement spotted by Joe Coppola <www.tinyurl.com/yau8qlw2>; the advertisement is by a company called SparkFun, which explains that its "gator:bit v.2.0 is an all-in-one carrier board for your micro:bit that provides you with a fully functioning development and prototype platform."
 59. Joanna Blalock stars in The Disappearance of Alistair Ainsworth (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 306 pp., \$26.99), the third in Leonard Goldberg's series about the daughter of Sherlock Holmes, who once again is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr.; her father taught her well, and she now (in 1915) she is trying to prevent disaster at the hands of German spies. It's all nicely done, and the author has a web-site at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.
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60. Feb 19 #3 There are many who benefit from Boolean algebra but know little if anything about the man who invented the logic that is used by Google for its searches, and who is credited with having invented the ones and zeros on which modern computers rely. The 200th anniversary of his birth was honored with a Google Doodle <www.tinyurl.com/y8d2lavc>, and New Light on George Boole, by Desmond MacHale and Yvonne Cohen (Cork: Atrium, 2018; 476 pp., €19.95), offers a detailed account of Boole's life and work, ending with a full chapter on "Sherlock Holmes, James Moriarty, and George Boole." The authors believe that it was Boole who was at least in part the inspiration for Moriarty, and they make a persuasive although sometimes circumstantial case.
 61. Lynda Arco is offering a wide variety of Sherlockian and Doylean books at eBay; her seller ID is lyar_73 (you can use the advanced search function to find her items).
 62. Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the January edition has now with 109 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and with bibliographic details for more than 7,200 entries; a thumb drive costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere) from Don (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028).
 63. When in Monschau: Karen Murdock has found on-line images of an imaginative metal statue of Sherlock Holmes located in Germany; the artist and history are unknown, but you can see the statue at <www.tinyurl.com/ybkdkjqk>.
 64. Sunny Evans has mentioned Gregory Dowling's essay on "G. K. Chesterton's Father Brown Stories: The Debt to Sherlock Holmes", which is available as a free download at <www.academia.edu>, a web-site that offers free access to more than 22 million research papers (including 300 "sherlock holmes" in the title).
 65. Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, which include Margalit Fox's Conan Doyle for the Defense (best non-fiction). The winners will be announced at Malice in Bethesda on May 4.
 66. William Morgan Sheppard died on Jan. 6. He began his acting career with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1858, performed on screen and television, and voiced characters in video games. He played Jim Craig in the Royal Shakespeare Company's tour of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Washington and New York in 1975, and appeared in two episodes of the Geoffrey Whitehead television series in 1979 (as the Man in the Morgue in "The Case of Harry Crocker" and as Mischkin in "Four Minus Four Is One").
 67. "Writers, new writers in particular, worry about giving the reader enough detail," Geri Schear wrote in an essay noted in a weekly e-mailing from MX Publishing <www.rycardus.wordpress.com/2019/01/16/the-final-frontier>; she has written three pastiches about Sherlock Holmes and Lady Beatrice for MX and contributed short stories to MX anthologies, and her advice should be heeded by anyone wanting to write a good pastiche (or a non-pastiche, for that matter).
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68. Feb 19 #4 Thaddeus Holt Jr. died on Dec. 29. A lawyer, he also served as deputy undersecretary of the Army and as secretary to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and was a dedicated military historian and wrote The Deceivers: Allied Military Deception in the Second World War (2004). Thad's essay on "The Hornblower Saga" in the N.Y. Times Book Review (May 18, 1975) opened with a quote from Christopher Morley and was as much about Holmes as about Hornblower, and his article "You Have Been in Afghanistan, I Perceive" in MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History (winter 1994) offered evidence that the fatal battle of Maiwand provided Conan Doyle with the names of both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.
 69. Sherlockians and Holmesians have their Canon (and fans of Laurie R. King's "Mary Russell" stories have their Canon), and Thomas Ling had a long essay in Radio Times (Feb. 5) <www.tinyurl.com/yd5wtzwx> about the canon created by fans of Doctor Who, with discussion of the Watsonian and Doylean Perspectives, and the similar approaches that the Whovians take regarding the contradictions and complications in their "Whoniverse".
 70. Laurie R. King's The Art of Detection (Nov 05 #6) is a delightful cross-over combining the worlds of Kate Martinelli and Mary Russell, and it includes a short story written by Sherlock Holmes that Laurie now offers as a free download: "The Marriage of Billy Birdsong" will be available until Mar. 11 at <www.tinyurl.com/y2nloy4m>.
 71. Albert Finney died on Feb. 8. The British actor began his career on stage and appeared in his first film in 1956, achieving international stardom in the title role in "Tom Jones" (1963); he appeared in many other films and was nominated for five Oscars (and was sometimes called the greatest actor

- never to have won an Oscar), and had an uncredited cameo as a “man in the audience at opera” in “The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes’ Smarter Brother” (1975).
72. Sidney and Walter Paget contributed illustrations to the Canon (and Walter is said to have been the model when his brother Sidney first drew Holmes), but there is another artist in the Paget family; Greg Ruby has three items at his Fourth Garrideb web-site on coins and medals that were designed by Walter Paget’s son Thomas Paget. Just go to <www.fourthgarrideb.com> and search for [paget].
 73. Betty Ballantine died on Feb. 12. She and her late husband Ian Ballantine founded Bantam Books and the Ballantine Books, and helped invent the modern paperback. They published Sherlockian titles, of course, and were responsible for one of a delightful publishing hoax: Jean Shepherd, who had a night-time radio show in New York City, once asked his listeners to go to bookstores and ask for Frederick R. Ewing’s *I Libertine*; neither the book nor the author existed, but the book made some best-seller lists, at a time when the lists were based on orders as well as sales, greatly frustrating booksellers. When the Ballantines heard about the hoax they asked science-fiction author Theodore Sturgeon to write the book as Ewing; Sturgeon did, and the Ballantines published it in 1956, with cover artwork by Frank Kelly Freas that shows a pub sign for the Fish & Staff; the sign has images of a sturgeon and shepherd’s staff.
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74. Feb 19 #5 Charles Finch’s *The Vanishing Man* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 269 pp., \$26.99), set in 1853, is a prequel to the long-running series about Charles Lenox, an amateur detective in pre-Sherlockian London (the series takes him into the 1870s), offering an intriguing view of the London, and England, into which Holmes was born; the story’s well-told, with interesting characters and a good sense of time and place.
 75. “Sherlock Holmes 3” (that’s the only title announced so far for the third Robert Downey Jr. film) has an official release date of Dec. 25, 2020, according to Warner Bros. There’s reported to be script, and one can assume that at some point they’ll start production. Or not.
 76. Further to an earlier mention of the CW television series “The Flash” (Aug 18 #4), the continuing character Harrison “Sherloque” Wells (played by Tom Cavanagh) is a distinct homage to Sherlock Holmes; in a recent episode he mentioned his former partner Watsune, who had an affair with Sherloque’s fourth wife, and in the next episode we learned that she was Renee Adler (played by Kimberly Williams-Paisley).
 77. Jennie Paton spotted an attractive plaster sculpture of Sherlock Holmes on eBay <www.tinyurl.com/y9ttzxzc>, offered by Sam Safieh at BargainSales365 in England (£29.99); they also offer a plaster sculpture of the exterior of 221 Baker Street (£110.00) <www.tinyurl.com/yaocmp6u>.
 78. “Talk About Sherlock” is a new monthly audio blog by Mattias Bostrom; in the first episode (“The Walking Out Mystery”) he discusses the impact of the Will Ferrell/John C. Reilly film “Holmes & Watson” and wonders whether the reported “mass walkouts” actually occurred. In the second episode (“The Micah Clarke Effect”) he discusses the importance of Conan Doyle’s historical fiction. You can listen to both of the episodes of his blog at <www.talkaboutsherlock.libsyn.com>.
 79. Josh Sorokach’s discussion of the documentary “Game Changers” in the on-line newsletter Decider (Feb. 4) included a report that there was a Sherlockian inspiration for the game show “Jeopardy” in a conversation between Merv Griffin and his wife Julann; details at <www.tinyurl.com/ycc29xdh>.
 80. Ray Betzner has been blogging for some time at “Studies in Starrett” about Starrett’s *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, and you can read Ray’s final(17th) chapter at <www.tinyurl.com/yydqwpfh>, with links to the earlier chapters; there’s much to be said about this landmark in the Sherlockian literature, and Ray says it well.
 81. *The Adventure of the Creeping Man* (Winchester University Press, 2017; 132 pp., £35.00 postpaid in the U.K./£50.00 postpaid elsewhere) is a facsimile edition of the manuscript, accompanied by an introduction and an annotated transcript by Neil McCaw, and a facsimile of the story as published in *The Strand Magazine*; McCaw offers an excellent discussion of the story, and of the changes that Conan Doyle made as he wrote it. Of particular note is the book’s epigraph: “Read at once if convenient—if inconvenient, read all the same,” a delightful paraphrase of the Canon. The book can be ordered at <www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conandoyl/thecreepingman>.
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82. Feb 19 #6 “Cromer is a very 1902 kind of place,” the *Guardian* reported on Feb. 22. “One half expects to see a non-ironic mutton-chop or a waxed moustache in the queue at Morrisons, or Arthur Conan Doyle (awfully keen on Cromer) filling up his Prius at the petrol station.” You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y3o2ogj9>. It was at the Royal Links Hotel in Cromer in 1901 that Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson gave birth to the Hound of the Baskervilles; a photograph of the hotel that was taken two years earlier can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/yxh7splv>.
 83. It’s nice to see old television commercials turn up at YouTube: Jennie Paton has reported a 30-second commercial for the American Gas Association and the Lennox Gas Furnace that aired in 1990, starring Patrick Horgan as Holmes and Sandy Marshall as Watson <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wY3g47rID_w>.
 84. There are of course very few people who own a copy of Beeton’s *Christmas Annual* for 1887, and if you’re not one of those very few you may want to purchase the new facsimile published by Matt Wingett; it’s nicely done and available from <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk> for £15.00, offering you a chance to read the two original drawing room plays that accompanied the first appearance of “A Study in Scarlet” (and the advertisements that provide an interesting look at what life was like in 1887).
 85. Also available from the same publisher is Wingett’s *Portsmouth: A Literary and Pictorial Tour* (2018; 93 pp, £12.50); it’s a carefully-researched and nicely-illustrated history of the city’s varied literary associations, including (needless to say) Arthur Conan Doyle, who was only one of the many authors who lived in or wrote about Portsmouth. And Conan Doyle and the Mysterious World of Light 1887-1920 (2016; 320 pp., £12.99), in which Wingett reprints (and comments on) articles by and about Conan Doyle that appeared in *Light* and other magazine and newspapers, and offers a detailed look at the development of Conan Doyle’s religious approach to Spiritualism.
 86. “The Next Leader of the World’s Oldest Sherlock Holmes Society Loves Mysteries—and the Great Game” is the headline on an article in the *Monterey County Weekly* (Feb. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/y6tld37z>, the next “benevolent dictator” of *The Baker Street Irregulars*.
 87. Samuel Feinberg (“The Prince of Colonna”) died on Feb. 13. He had a long career in broadcasting in Philadelphia and New York, and was a member of the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia. Sam was a devoted member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, contributed articles to the *Baker Street Journal* and *More Leaves from the Copper Beeches*, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.
 88. The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, were created in 1981, and traditionally are awarded the day before the Oscars. This year’s winners have been announced, and “Holmes & Watson” won in four categories: worst picture; worst supporting actor (John C. Reilly); worst remake, rip-off, or sequel; and worst director (Ethan Cohen). The film was nominated in two other categories (worst actor and worst screen combo). Details at <www.tinyurl.com/y3feqrjp>.
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89. Feb 19 #7 The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State has announced a Raffle for a brick fragment from Christopher Morley’s house in Roslyn Estates on Long Island, offering admirers of Morley a rare opportunity to own an artifact from his home, which was torn down in 2011. Tickets cost

- \$5.00 each, and proceeds from the raffle will go to the Christopher Morley grave decoration fund; the drawing will be held at the society's annual dinner in Hoboken on Apr. 28, and tickets can be purchased via <hobokenfreestate@mbcable.com>.
90. "Holmes & Watson" (with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) will be released on Apr. 9 in a Blu-ray/DVD set (\$34.99) and DVD only (\$30.99); the added features will include 20 deleted scenes <www.tinyurl.com/y3zzbaod>.
 91. Will Thomas' Hell Bay (New York: Minotaur, 2016; 290 pp., \$25.99) continues his series featuring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn, taking them to one of the Scilly Isles and a desperate battle to solve a series of brutal murders. Old Scores (2017; 294 pp., \$25.99), the next in the series, opens with Barker arrested for the murder of a Japanese ambassador, and reveals a lot about Barker's interesting life before he arrived in London; the characters and mysteries are nicely done, and Thomas has a web-site at <www.willthomasauthor.com>.
 92. Jennie Paton spotted Walmart's advertisement for an inexpensive Sherlock Holmes costume kit <www.tinyurl.com/y644wpm3>; for \$3.99 it's likely only patterns, but they also offer a variety of Sherlockian costumes.
 93. The New Yorker, on-line as well as in print, offers "Daily Shouts: Humor, Satire, and Funny Observations" that included (on Jan. 9) Ellen Rosen and Colin Stokes' illustrated "Clues That You Are the Unorthodox Detective in a Murder Mystery"; go to <www.tinyurl.com/y9h5nx92> to see their take on Sherlock Holmes.
 94. "How Sherlock Changed the World" (a two-hour program broadcast in the U.K. and the U.S. in 2013) is now available at YouTube, Jennie Paton reports, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPYBxfvIU>.
 95. The Royal Mint's new 50p coin honoring Sherlock Holmes so far is available (still) only in annual sets, but you can see some imaginative artwork that promotes the coin, and an item about its designer Stephen Raw, on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y7xajv2s>.
 96. "'Clue House' in Peterborough Inspired Parker Brothers" is the headline on a story in the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript (Feb. 18), noted by Karen Murdock <www.tinyurl.com/yxgfecv9>; according to the article, the house, in New Hampshire, was owned by George and Grace Parker of the Parker Brothers family when the game Clue was invented, and the game echoes the layout of the house. The citation for the game in Ron De Waal's The Universal Sherlock Holmes reports that in 1949 (when the game was first issued) it was called Clue, The Great New Sherlock Holmes Game! But (and there's often a but) according to Wikipedia, the British game Cluedo was licensed to Parker Brothers and issued in the U.S. as Clue.
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97. Feb 19 #8 "Spy's Skeleton Found in British Home" was the headline on an article in the N.Y. Times (June 27, 1974); it's a spectacular story, well worth reading <www.tinyurl.com/yxbvwlfj>, not really Sherlockian except that Holmes certainly would have nodded and said, "Well, that's Scotland Yard for you." It seems, from an Internet search, that the mystery's still unsolved.
 98. Deb E. Tenney's The Adventure of Black Peter: Hawaiian Style (El Cerrito: Glencannon Press, 2017; 16 pp., \$20.00) is an imaginative addition to the universe of Canonical translations, presented in Hawaiian pidgin, complete with footnotes and an explanation of how Hawaiian pidgin is pronounced.
 99. I hear of Sherlock everywhere: Jennie Paton spotted an amusing advertisement created by Saatchi & Saatchi in the United Arab Emirates for Head & Shoulders shampoo <www.tinyurl.com/y8nxfwf4>.
 100. The "Seattle Squeeze" is what the locals call the closing of the Alaskan Way Viaduct that recently was closed, affecting 90,000 cars full of commuters and other drivers. Bill Seil has kindly forwarded an amusing (and Sherlockian) editorial cartoon by David Horsey from the Seattle Times (on Jan. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/ycartyxz>, and you can click on the "simply disappeared" link for more context
 101. Theatrics: Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Coolidge Theatre in Wellsboro, Pa., Mar. 15-23 <www.tinyurl.com/yxkvvr9b>.
 102. Holmes and Watson are characters in the musical "Take Me Away" to be performed at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J., Mar. 20-Apr. 30 <www.hhplayhouse.com>.
 103. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Cantey V. Sutton Theatre in Raleigh, N.C., Apr. 12-28; their web-site's at <www.raleighlittletheatre.org>. Also at the Theater Barn in New Lebanon, N.Y., June 21-30 <www.theatheatbarn.org>; at Cumston Hall in Monmouth, Maine, July 11-Aug. 15 <www.theateratmonmouth.org>. It's also due at the Pepsi-Cola Theatre for the Performing Arts in Mitchell, S.D., on Oct. 4-13 <www.mitchellact.org>.
 104. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Greenville Theatre in Greenville, S.C., on Oct. 25-Nov. 10 <www.greenvilleonline.org>.
 105. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is due at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., June 12-July 26, 2020 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.
 106. Dan Blackley's new play "Sherlock Holmes: Here There Be Dragons" will be performed at the Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., on Oct. 18-Nov. 3 <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>; "in 1880s London, there are gruesome killings in Whitechapel."
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107. Mar 19 #1 Maiwand is in the news again, many years after the battle in which Watson was wounded in 1880: according to the Sunday Times (Feb. 24), the Ministry of Defence has reported to the Pentagon that the battlefield was looted by American soldiers who were deployed there in 2009, and that personal possessions and military items that had been buried with victims of the battle were sent to America and sold to collectors. Any soldier who took the material "may have broken international law," an MoD official said.
 108. Peter C. Davidson's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" (brought up to date) is a 17-minute film that debuted at the University of Utah in 2017; it can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/yc3sbbdj>.
 109. It wasn't that long ago that people diagnosed Sherlock Holmes as displaying Asperger's syndrome, which now is considered part of the autism spectrum; Alan Rettig has found an interesting mention of Sherlock Holmes in a discussion of "autism chic" in an article by Robert Hughes in Northwestern Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/y589z3hl>.
 110. There seem to be Sherlockians who collect anything and everything, but are there any who collect Sherlockian knives? Alexander Orlov has reported an artistic Sherlockian knife made by Alexander Aredakov, you can see images of his knife at <www.vk.com/id167856065>.
 111. A reminder about the book fair due at the Chatham-Summit Meeting House in Chatham, N.J., from noon to 4:00 pm on Apr. 27, when publications of the Baker Street Irregulars Press and Sherlockian material donated to the BSI Trust will be offered for sale; details available from Denny Dobry, who's also happy to help fill want lists from those who can't get to the event <dendobry@ptd.net>.
 112. Jennie Paton has found "The Shackles of Sherlock Holmes" available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVNhZXNPD9w>; broadcast by ITV3 in 2007, the documentary features David Burke (who played Watson in the Granada series) and commentary by Owen Dudley Edwards, David Stuart Davies, Andrew Lycett, Jon Lellenberg, and Gyles Brandreth.

113. The latest “Sherlock” is a light-weight fingerprint scanner that’s marketed by Integrated Biometrics <www.integratedbiometrics.com>; they also offer a Mini Watson.
114. The web-site HN Entertainment has “learned from a source” that “Sherlock Holmes 3” (the next in the Robert Downey Jr. franchise) will take place in the Old West, especially San Francisco <www.tinyurl.com/y5klclu4>; one can assume that this is the first possibly unreliable rumor about the film.
115. Playbill Vault <www.playbill.com/vault> bills itself as the largest Broadway database on-line, and it’s well worth a look by anyone interested in Sherlockian and Doylean theater; there are images of programs as well as articles. The Internet Broadway Data Base <www.ibdb.com> is another fine resource for information about performances and casts and credits.

116. Mar 19 #2 Alexander Orlov has reported Mikhail Molyukov’s Biology with Sherlock Holmes (Moscow: ACT, 2019; 242 pp., R239); it’s all in Russian, with a detailed discussion of “how animals and plants helped the famous detective Sherlock Holmes unravel dozens of crimes!” The publisher’s web-site is at <www.labirint.ru/books/674416>.
117. Frank Cho (the award-winning artist who created the comic strip “Liberty Meadows”) contributed the elegant Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the program for this year’s annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, you can see the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/yyvzpxas>.
118. “Scooby-Doo and Guess Who?” is an animated television series scheduled to premiere on the Boomerang streaming service and app this year. The gang will solve mysteries while meeting celebrities, including Sherlock Holmes.
119. Fun Cases is a British company that offers a wide range of merchandise (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), including an imaginative case for a cell phone (£7.99) <www.funcases.com>.
120. André Previn died on Feb. 28. He was a consummate musician, as a pianist, composer, and conductor; he won eleven Grammys and four Oscars, received a knighthood in 1996, and was one of the Kennedy Center Honorees in 1998. His connection with Sherlock Holmes is through Sarasate (Holmes said at the end of “The Red-Headed League” that “Sarasate plays at the St. James’s Hall this afternoon”): Previn conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for a 1979 recording of Sarasate’s “Zigeunerweisen” with Itzhak Perlman on the violin, and you can listen to the recording at <www.tinyurl.com/y5jstbqb>.
121. “Catholic Royal Opens New Centre for Christian Renewal at Stonyhurst College” was the headline on a story in the Catholic Universe (Feb. 27); the Catholic royal was Lord Nicholas Windsor, great-grandson of King George V, and the article <www.tinyurl.com/y273zf8s> is interesting for its mention of Conan Doyle having carved his name on a desk at the school, very close to the engraving of a contemporary called Moriarty; the desk is one of the historical artifacts that went on display at the school in 2002, according to the Lancashire Telegraph <www.tinyurl.com/yyllflmwy>, and you can see an image of the desk at <www.tinyurl.com/y2qtq68>.
122. Martin Edwards will deliver this year’s Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture at 2:00 pm on Apr. 6 at the Toronto Reference Library, speaking on “In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes” <www.acdfriends.org>; admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.
123. Carol Channing died on Jan. 15. The award-winning actress made her stage debut in 1941 and went on to stardom in leading roles in “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes” (1949) and “Hello Dolly” (1964). Jean Upton noted in the District Messenger that Channing also played Mehitabel the cat (with Eddie Bracken as Archy the cockroach) in the Broadway musical “archy & mehitabel” in 1954 (based on the writings of Don Marquis, who was a close friend of Christopher Morley and an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars; she also voiced Mehitabel in the animated film “Shinbone Alley” in 1970).

124. Mar 19 #3 Carolyn Senter has established the R. Joel Senter Sr. Prize in honor of her late husband (they published the Sherlockian E-Times for many years). The prize will reward young people from grades four through twelve for excellence in writing and critical thinking, based on an essay about one of the Sherlock Holmes stories; the reward will be administered by the Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com>, and you’re invited to contribute at their web-site (please mark your contribution for the Senter Prize).
125. Arthur Thomas Walker died on Feb. 9. He was a cornerstone member of the Florida Bibliophile Society, and an avid collector of both Sherlock Holmes and Ernest Stratemeyer material. His collection eventually will be available; contact Maureen E. Mulvihill <maureenemulvihill@gmail.com> for more information.
126. Jaimee Leigh’s handcrafted “Well-Read Birdhouses” are sold at the Barrow Bookstore in Concord, Mass. Each one “aims to summarize the essence of a book or story,” and of course she has not neglected Sherlock Holmes; his birdhouse can be seen at <www.barrowbookstore.com/literarygifts.html>.
127. Big Chief Studios offers a wide range of authorized (and expensive) figures and dioramas from the “Sherlock” television series, and they’re now having a clearance sale <www.tinyurl.com/y62cjco6> on some of their merchandise.
128. The release of “Sherlock Holmes 3” (the next film in the franchise starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law), previously scheduled for Christmas in 2020, has been postponed to the end of 2021 (according to a story in the Hollywood Reporter, which noted that the first film has grossed \$524 million world-wide, and the second film \$545.4 million).
129. The Occupants of the Empty House have published their monthly Camden House Journal ever since the society was established in 1977, and they finally have gone electronic, offering PDFs via e-mail. If you’d like to see news and scholarship from the Occupants, send an e-mail message to Bill Cochran <www.murraytheorderly.com>.
130. Further to the item (Sep 18 #1) about the origin of the name Doyle, there is a web-site <www.irishcentral.com> that offers information about Irish family names, with a short video that explains that the Dubhghaill (dark strangers) were the darker-haired Danish Vikings (rather than the lighter-haired Norwegian Vikings).
131. Frederic H. Mende (“Lord Holdhurst”) died on Mar. 15. An expert musician, he played with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and after moving to Charlotte, N.C., he taught music in the public schools and played first trumpet with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. A life-long student of military history, he identified a military surgeon who might have been the inspiration for Dr. Watson and he was an energetic member of his local Sherlockian society, the Saxe-Coburg Squares of Mecklenburg County. Fred received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.

132. Mar 19 #4 James Mustich’s 1,000 Books to Read Before You Die (New York: Workman, 2018; 948 pp., \$35.00) is a delightful exploration of both literature and literature, full of insightful commentary, and plenty of surprises. Conan Doyle’s The Complete Sherlock Holmes is included (“it would be hard to name another modern literary character who has achieved such international celebrity”), and so are Christopher Morley’s Parnassus on Wheels and The Haunted Bookshop (described as “two charming novels that celebrate the company of books”).
133. Some Sherlockian societies are exclusive, some not so much, and a few are totally inclusive, including Doyle’s Rotary Coffin, founded by Paul Thomas Miller (with the motto “All Holmes Is Good Holmes”). The society’s so inclusive that you’re invited to print your own membership card at its web-site <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>. The society’s purpose is “wholeheartedly and contrarily enjoying stupid Holmesiana regardless of

- how canonical others consider it to be,” and its goal is “resisting the urge to be a Sherlock Snob and instead embracing every last daft bit of Holmes available.”
134. Australia has issued a stamp honoring the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the “Welcome Stranger” in the Bulldog Gully goldfields in 1869; it is still the largest alluvial gold nugget ever found, and it yielded 71kg of gold, worth (then) £9,583 or (now) about AU\$4 million. The second largest, the Welcome Nugget, found in Ballarat in 1859, yielded 69kg of gold (Ballarat is mentioned in “The Sign of the Four” and in “The Boscombe Valley Mystery”). They melted nuggets down in those days; the world’s largest surviving nugget is the “Pepita Canaã found in Brazil in 1983 with 52.33kg of gold, now on display in the Museu de Valores do Banco Central in Brasília (the source nugget was larger, but split into pieces while being removed from the ground).
 135. Karen Murdock spotted the “Sherlock Personality Quiz” at the WETA web-site <www.weta.org/tv/program/sherlock/quiz>, where fans of the Benedict Cumberbatch series can find their match.
 136. The battle over the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The developer withdrew its appeal against the National Park Authority’s decision to reject a proposal to demolish the hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel included evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912) (Dec 18 #4), but the Southern Daily Echo reported on Mar. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/y57jpw6> that PegasusLife plans to submit fresh proposals to replace the hotel with apartments and holiday homes.
 137. Ross E. Davies has edited (and published) the Baker Street Almanac: An Annual Capsule of a Timeless Past & Future 2019, which he imaginatively describes as “a formidable scrap-book of 2018, including treasures created or uncovered then, with a few other odds and ends tossed in, and a glance ahead at 2019.” It’s that and more, in 301 pages, with a wide variety of articles written by Sherlockians from all corners of the globe, and it is available both ink-on-paper (for \$30.00) and as a free 659-MB download at <www.greenbag.org>.
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138. Mar 19 #5 The Fall 2018 issue of The Magic Door (that’s the newsletter of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) includes a report by Dayna Nuhn on letters Conan Doyle wrote to the publisher Grant Richards (purchased at the auction of Daniel Posnansky’s collection), and other news from and about the Library and the Collection; copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
 139. Barbara Rusch’s one-act play “The Crossing” was performed at the Toronto Reference Library in 2011, during the “A Study in Scandal” conference; it has been expanded into a three-act play “The Crossing, or Three Authors in Search of a Character” that has been published for members of the Friends (the three authors being Oscar Wilde, Edgar Allan Poe, and Harry Houdini, with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle involved). There are a limited number of copies available to people who decide to join the Friends now; their web-site <www.acdfriends.org> is credit card and PayPal friendly, and you can send a check (in US or Canadian dollars) to Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above). The minimum donation of \$35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the play. You can also purchase just the play, for \$20.00 postpaid, from Donny Zaldin; contact him at <donaldzaldin@rogers.com>.
 140. BBC Radio 4 broadcast a series of twelve 30-minute programs in a “Sherlock Holmes” series in 1978, with Barry Foster as Holmes and David Buck as Watson, and Jennie Paton reports that many of them are available on-line at YouTube; search for [barry foster sherlock].
 141. George Morfogen died on Mar. 8. He began his Broadway career as a stage manager in 1962, and went to appear on stage, screen, and television. He was perhaps best known for playing Bob Rebadow on the HBO series “Oz”, and performed as Professor Moriarty (with Frank Langella as Holmes) in William Gillette’s “Sherlock Holmes” on stage in 1977, and again for a production broadcast by HBO in 1981.
 142. Jennie Paton has found a new (and imaginative) Sherlockian artist: Domino Erdmann, a young woman in Germany who spent six months creating something that has to be seen to be believed <www.tinyurl.com/y5sjmhe8>.
 143. Michael Halm’s Sherlock Holmes and the Mad Doctor (Hierogamous Enterprises, 2015; 109 pp. \$8.00) has Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a doctor who has invented a time machine; they travel into a great number of pasts and futures described by other authors of pastiches.
 144. Mystery-writer Peter Lovesey has long been interested in the Olympics, and some years ago helped identify the two men who assisted Dorando Pietro at the end of the Olympic marathon in 1908; they actually were Clerk of the Course Jack Andrew and Chief Medical Officer Michael Bulger, rather than (as some still maintain) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Mar 02 #4). Lovesey also has written Sherlockian pastiches, none of which are in the latest collection of his short stories published by Crippen & Landru, The Crime of Miss Oyster Brown and Other Stories, but his fans will welcome the opportunity to enjoy the book <www.crippenlandru.com>.
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145. Mar 19 #6 Karen Murdock has noted a story in the San Jose Mercury News (Mar. 11) about Tesla’s decision to close half of its stores. The car company’s CEO Elon Musk said in a memo to company employees that some of the stores that have been closed so far had not passed “the Sherlock Holmes test,” adding that “most of the stores are in such difficult or obscure locations, only Sherlock Holmes could find them!”
 146. “Numismatists do not fear change” is the motto of the Fourth Garrideb web-site maintained by Greg Ruby, who recently discussed the souvenir he prepared for last January’s birthday festivities in New York; explaining how and why Sherlock Crater on the Moon can be seen on a U.S. one-dollar coin issued in 1976 <www.tinyurl.com/y65894po>.
 147. An attention-getting opening paragraph for a book, as noted by Kate Stine in Mystery Scene’s monthly on-line newsletter: “On the third day of their honeymoon, infamous environmental activist Stewie Woods and his new bride, Annabel Bellotti, were spiking trees in the forest when a cow exploded and blew them up. Until then, their marriage had been happy.” In *Savage Run*, by C. J. Box (2003).
 148. Sherlockians who have 3D printers may want to purchase (for \$15) a program that prints a bust of Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes, reported by Jennie Paton; it’s available from CGTrader <www.tinyurl.com/y4raesw>, and there’s a matching bust of Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson.
 149. It’s not at all surprising that anyone who knew the late John Bennett Shaw has stories to tell about him, and if you would like to read some of those stories you can find them at <www.johnbennettshaw.com>, a delightful web-site just launched by Jim Hawkins, who has done a fine job of collecting and illustrating tributes to John.
 150. The late Bill Rabe was a thoroughly imaginative publicist, and many of the traditions he started are still observed, one of them the annual snowman burning that welcomes the arrival of spring at Lake Superior State University; Bill’s son John has kindly forwarded the press release for the event <www.lssu.edu/snowman-burning>. Note the link to another of his inspired creations, the Unicorn Hunters. He also was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and the two editions of his Sherlockian Who’s Who and What’s What in 1961 and 1962 offer a wonderful look at what our world was like in those distant days.
 151. Marjorie Weinman Sharmat died on Mar. 12. She launched her career as an author of books for young readers in 1967, and wrote or co-wrote more than 130 books, including a long series of books that featured young detective Nate the Great, who often appeared in Sherlockian costume in illustrations by Marc Simont; the series debuted in 1972 and eventually sold more than 15 million copies, according to her publisher.

152. Rob Nunn and Dan Andriacco have created an e-mail exchange for Sherlockian societies, so that they can share news and announcements; if you would like to publicize your society's activities, and hear about what other societies are doing, contact Rob at <parallelcasestl@gmail.com>.

153. Mar 19 #7 Theodora Goss' *European Travel for the Monstrous Gentlewoman* (New York: Saga, 2018; 708 pp. \$26.99) is the second book in her trilogy about "the extraordinary adventures of the Athena Club"; it's a sequel to *The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter* (Jul 17 #6), and the monstrous gentlewomen are inspired by books written by Stevenson, Hawthorne, Wells, Shelley, Stoker, and Rider Haggard. This time Holmes and Watson are only mentioned, but the cliffhanger ending of the book promises that they'll be more involved in the third book, *The Sinister Mystery of the Mesmerizing Girl*. The author's web-site <www.theodoragoss.com> offers an interesting look at this and other series.
154. The Hounds of the Internet continue to cycle through the Canon at a rate of one story per week, and Alexander Braun posts colorful "Case Inquiries" for reach story. Willis Frick reposts them at Sherlocktron, and you can examine them at <www.sherlocktron.com/inquiries.html>. Willis also offers Ralph Edwards' "Canon Queeries" <www.sherlocktron.com/queries.html> (Ralph didn't do Queeries for three of the long stories).
155. *Ghost Stories: Classic Tales of Horror and Suspense*, edited by Lisa Morton and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus, 2019; 272 pp., \$25.95) has nothing by Conan Doyle (although he's mentioned in the introduction), but it's a treat for anyone who enjoys the genre.
156. Basil Rathbone's former home in Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire was burned down this month in a fire that experts believe "was started deliberately as an unlawful act," the Daily Mail reported <www.tinyurl.com/y4h7jdsdp> on Mar. 20; according to the paper, the current owner is a Russian oligarch who lives abroad, and the property has been the subject of numerous planning applications, including a proposal to build 47 homes on the six-acre site. All of the applications have been turned down.
157. Bill Seil has forwarded a story in *Publishers Weekly* (Mar. 11) about plans to publish Mark Twain's *Literary Resources: A Reconstruction of His Library and Reading* <www.tinyurl.com/y3o9c4l8>. According to Alan Gribben, he began the project in 1969, and the resulting three volumes will include an annotated bibliography of all the books Twain cited in interviews and in his writings, and the 3,500 titles he owned in his personal library. Perhaps someone will someday do that for Conan Doyle.
158. "Let us consider the claims of Whitaker's Almanack," said Sherlock Holmes (in "The Valley of Fear"). The almanack (that's the British spelling) is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, and is still being published; Neil Clark offered a nice tribute to Whitaker's in the Daily Express (Mar. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/yyq3my3p>.
159. Further to the report that Great Scotland Yard had been sold for £370 million and would be converted to "mixed-use residential development" (Dec 14 #6), Nick Utechin notes a report in *The Times* on Mar. 23 that it soon will be the Great Scotland Yard Hotel. The newspaper's web-site is (alas) protected by a pay-wall, but there's a similar story in the *Hindustan Times* <www.tinyurl.com/yyaqb3zc>. Now owned by an Indian billionaire, the hotel will open later this year, and it will be both fancy and expensive.

160. Mar 19 #8 *The New Adventures of Solar Pons*, edited by David Marcum (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2018; 423 pp., \$29.95), offers twenty "tales of the Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street," all written by authors who wanted to extend the Pontine Canon that was launched by August Derleth in 1929, when he created Solar Pons as an homage to Sherlock Holmes; the anthology has been authorized by Derleth's estate, and the new stories follow nicely in the path set by Derleth.
161. Lynne Stephens has reported "Discovering Literature" (an on-line resource launched by the British Library in 2014); the (well-illustrated) articles include John Sutherland's "Sherlock Holmes Holmes, the World's Most Famous Literary Detective" <www.tinyurl.com/yylzjh8t> and Greg Buzwell's "An Introduction to The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/yxsd64ff>.
162. "Sherlock's Other Brother by a Southern Mother" is being performed at the Black Fedora Comedy Mystery Theatre in Charleston, S.C., through Aug. 29 ("it was the Holmes family secret") <www.tinyurl.com/yyyberxr>.
163. "Sherlock Holmes Cirque-o-Rama: The Murder Under the Big Topless" will be performed at the Minnsky Theatre in Minneapolis, Minn., on Apr. 18-20; an adult comedy ("join our award-winning Wicked Wenches"), and their web-site is at <www.minnskystheatre.tix.com>.
164. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Gungahlin Theater in Gungahlin, Australia, Apr. 19-27; the theater's web-site's at <www.stagecenta.com>.
165. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" is due at the Performance Hall at Hochstein in Rochester, N.Y., on Apr. 28 (it's presented by the Rochester Symphony Orchestra in their OrKIDStra series); the web-site is at <www.rpo.org>.
166. "The Game Is Afoot!" (an improvised Sherlock Holmes mystery) will be performed at the Factory Theatre in Marrickville, N.S.W., Australia, May 4-5, during the Sydney Comedy Festival <www.sydneycomedyfest.com.au>; it's advertised as "like 'Holmes & Watson' but funny").
167. Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" will premiere at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org> (the play is inspired by David Grann's article in the *New Yorker* about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green).
168. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the Otto M. Budig Theater in Cincinnati, Ohio., July 17-Aug. 4 <www.cincyshakes.com>.
169. Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman's musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" is scheduled at the Tabard Theatre in San Jose, Calif., Sep. 13-Oct. 6 <www.tabardtheatre.org>.

170. Apr 19 #1 Save the dates: The Baker Street Irregulars will hold a BSI Archive Conference on Nov. 8-10 at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., the new home of the BSI Archive. Ross Davies and Glen Miranker have assembled an outstanding list of speakers from the worlds of collecting, book-selling, and publishing, and registration information will be available later this year for anyone who wishes to attend the festivities.
171. There's now web-site information about Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" (due at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org/mysterious-circumstances>; the play's inspired by David Grann's article in the *New Yorker* about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green).
172. A Juno Knitting Pattern Download for a "Conan Doyle Vest" is available for \$6.00 from Interweave <www.interweave.com/store/conan-doyle-vest-in-juno>. It's a cabled vest accented by a wide collar and with big shoulders, and it's not at all clear what the connection to Sir Arthur might be.
173. Greg Ruby reports that "they're off and running," at Laurel Race Course in Laurel, Md., on June 9. Registration for this year's Silver Blaze (Southern Division) is now open, at <www.fourthgarrideb.com/silver-blaze>.
174. The latest news about the gene-editing technology CRISPR is the invention of the Specific High sensitivity Enzymatic Reporter unLOCKing device (yes, it's called SHERLOCK) by Sherlock Biosciences; you can read all about it in Ellie Kincaid's article in *Forbes* (Mar. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/y67adjyp>.
175. "Desert Island Discs" has been broadcast by the BBC since 1942: each week distinguished guests are asked to choose eight pieces of music they'd take if they were castaways on a desert island, and Martin Freeman was the program's guest on Apr. 5, when he talked about his life and career, and (of course) playing Dr. Watson in the BBC's "Sherlock" series. You can hear the program at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0003rlf>.

176. Chess players will enjoy Jennie Paton's discovery of an interesting analysis at YouTube of the chess match between Holmes and Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CLSDVbxRRek>.
177. Margalit Fox's CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (May 18 #5) has been optioned by Gold Circle Films, according to the Hollywood Reporter (Mar. 21); the book offers an up-to-date report on Conan Doyle's defense of Oscar Slater, so we may get to see Conan Doyle on the big screen.
178. Variety reported on Feb. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/yypwvyz5> that a new eight-episode television series based on Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* was due for release on RAI on Italy in March; it will debut on SundanceTV in the U.S. on May 1, and on the BBC in Britain later in the year. The series stars John Turturro as William of Baskerville, Damien Hardung as Adso of Melk, and Rupert Everett as inquisitor Bernard Gui; the book is set in Italy in 1327, but nevertheless was nicely Sherlockian.

179. Apr 19 #2 Laird R. Blackwell's *Frederic Dannay, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and the Art of the Detective Story* (Jefferson: McFarland, 2019; 226 pp., \$45.00) is a splendid tribute to a magazine that has contributed so much to keeping a genre alive and well, and to its editor; there's a chapter on "The Fine Arts of Parody, Pastiche, and Spoof" that includes many of the Sherlockian contributors (and discussion of Conan Doyle in "The Old Masters Resuscitated"). The publisher's web-site is at <www.mcfarlandbooks.com>.
180. Shane Rimmer died on Mar. 29. He began his acting career in television in 1957, and is credited as a supporting actor in a long list of television series and films; he also wrote scripts and was a voice actor, and played Lysander Stark with Michael Pennington in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) and Jefferson Hope on BBC Radio 4 in "A Study in Scarlet" (1989).
181. "Kabukicho Sherlock" (a new anime due on television in Japan in October) is set in modern-day Kabukicho in Shinjuku, Tokyo, and "follows the comedic, mysterious, and dramatic adventures of a ragtag band of detectives as they live together in a tenement above Mrs. Hudson's bar in the red-light district and attempt to solve an unusual string of killings." You can see some of the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/y4wwtb6v>.
182. One hears of Sherlock everywhere, Karen Murdock spotted a letter, written by David Doyle and published in the Irish Times (Mar. 30): "We appear to be heading for a Sherlock Holmes Brexit. Once you eliminate the impossible Brexits, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the true Brexit."
183. And according to an editorial in The Times on Mar. 31, "we have reached the point in which, to paraphrase Arthur Conan Doyle, once you have eliminated the sensible, you are left with a series of unpalatable choices."
184. Vincent Starrett and Arthur Conan Doyle shared many literary interests in addition to Sherlock Holmes; one of them was pirates. Conan Doyle wrote four delightful stories about the terrible and terrifying Captain Sharkey (all of them now available online) and Ray Betzner has written an excellent article about "Pirates, Desert Islands, and Mermaids" at his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.tinyurl.com/y4cubbdw>.
185. There seems to be no end to puzzle books that feature Sherlock Holmes, but Ian Stewart's *Professor Stewart's Casebook of Mathematical Mysteries* (New York: Basic Books, 2014; 320 pp., \$16.99) offers "mathematical curios and conundrums" that feature Hemlock Soames and Dr. John Watson; real mathematics are involved, and the solutions are far from trivial.
186. Georgiana Cavendish, 5th Duchess of Devonshire, gave her name to the style of hat worn by Mary Sutherland (in "A Case of Identity"), and her portrait by Gainsborough was stolen by Adam Worth (who was described as the Napol on of crime long before that title was given to the evil Prof. Moriarty). You can see the portrait, and learn much more about the Duchess, in an interesting article by Amanda Foreman <www.tinyurl.com/yy8phllk>.

187. Apr 19 #3 It's a remote connection between Sherlock Holmes and an American president, and one can only wish that there were a photograph of President John F. Kennedy with "a big Sherlock-Holmes style magnifying glass," but there's a reference to this in Don Moser's article on "The Time of the Angel" in *American Heritage* (Oct. 1977), reported by Alexandar Orlov in the on-line library of the Central Intelligence Agency. The "Angel" was the nickname of the U-2, and the article is about the Cuban missile crisis. You can read the text of the article at the American Heritage web-site <www.americanheritage.com/time-angel>, and find a scan of the actual article (with illustrations) at <www.tinyurl.com/y2oxehl3>.
188. Ralph Hall and Mike McSwiggin are helping Barbara Herbert sell Paul Herbert's collection; he cast his net widely, and had interesting Sherlockiana as well as books, and if you have a want-list you're welcome to get in touch with Ralph at <bugmanhall@aol.com>.
189. "How did Sherlock hire Watson?" Using Google, according to an amusing advertisement <www.vimeo.com/328543356> spotted by Jennie Paton.
190. "Comedy Playhouse" was a 30-minutes series broadcast by BBC-1; on Jan. 18, 1973, the program included a skit titled "Elementary, My Dear Watson" with John Cleese as Holmes and William Rushton as Watson, and Jennie Paton has found the skit at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpjztufGwhI>.
191. Gyles Brandreth's *Oscar Wilde and the Return of Jack the Ripper* (New York: Pegasus, 2019; 356 pp., \$25.95), is the seventh of his series of mysteries featuring Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle; published in Britain in 2017 as *Jack the Ripper: Case Closed*, the novel's set in 1894 and presents an imaginative, well-written, and colorful solution to the identity of Jack the Ripper.
192. The 1979 Russian television series that starred Vasiliy Livanov and Vitaliy Solomin was filmed in Riga, and Alexander Orlov reports that the city began formal celebrations of Sherlock Holmes' birthday in 2012; there's a nice assortment of photographs at <www.tinyurl.com/yxf76hqa>, and video at <www.tinyurl.com/y3geu5mn>.
193. The Haven, in Jamaica Plain, Mass., proudly offers "Scottish food, drink, and great banter," and their menu includes a Sherlock Holmes cocktail made with Lapsang Souchong tea, scotch, honey liqueur, and lemon (in case you would like to try one at home) <www.thehavenjp.com>.
194. Ross E. Davies' excellent article about "The Bimetallic Question in The Valley of Fear" (published in the summer 2018 issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*) now is available on-line at the web-site of the Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/y47mdmev>.
195. Kazuhito Kato died on Apr. 11. He used the pen name Monkey Punch as the creator of the popular "Lupin III" manga series that was adapted for television, films, musicals, and video games. Lupin III was the grandson of Arsène Lupin, and Sherlock Holmes III was one of the supporting characters in the television episode "The Great Detectives Take to the Sky" (1978).

196. Apr 19 #4 Uttiyo Bhattacharya's *Ba'az of the Bengal Lancers* (New Delhi: Juggernaut, 2019; 353 pp., INR-350) begins in 1857, the year of the Indian Mutiny (which will be familiar to anyone who has read "The Sign of the Four") and a stolen treasure, and the book is the story of a modern-day search for that treasure; Conan Doyle's story is one of the inspirations for the book (Captain Morstan, Major Sholto, and Jonathan Small make appearances, but aren't quite Conan Doyle's characters), and the story's nicely told. There's also an e-book version available for INR-80 at the publisher's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y3yvoew>.
197. CBS-TV has announced that the final season of "Elementary" will begin airing on May 23.

198. Harold Wayne Billings died on Nov. 29, 2017. Born in Texas in 1931, he was for twenty-five years the director of general libraries at the University of Texas in Austin, and was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article published in *The Baker Street Journal* in 2006 ("The Material Medica of Sherlock Holmes").
199. Bill Amos' three-act play *Sherlock Holmes and the Scarlet Avenger* was published by Amazon's CreateSpace in 2015 (71 pp., \$10.50) and performed at the Performance Works Factory Theatre in Nuremberg, Pa., this year (it's an interesting dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet").
200. Arthur Conan Doyle lived and worked in Plymouth in 1882, in practice with George Turnavine Budd, before moving on to Southsea; Plymouth boasts not only a commemorative blue plaque at 1 Durnford Street, but also a series of quotations from his writings that have been set in stone in the sidewalks of the street <www.tinyurl.com/y4jmu3cn>.
201. Slot machines have come a long way since the days of the one-armed bandit: Tom Horn Gaming has just released "Sherlock: A Scandal in Bohemia" and you can visit www.tinyurl.com/y3antw5b to learn more about the game (and watch a trailer); thanks to Alexander Orlov for reporting this new development.
202. The Mystery Writers of America have announced the winners of this year's Edgar awards, and they include Leslie S. Klinger's *Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s* (for best critical/biographical); the book was edited by Les, with a Foreword by Otto Penzler (Sept 18 #3).
203. Jennie Paton found a nice tribute to the late Roger Llewellyn, who was interviewed and recorded by Steve and Pat Tanenbaum after a performance of "Sherlock Holmes – The Last Act!" <www.tinyurl.com/y4vcsrte>.
204. When in New Zealand: "Cut! Costume and the Cinema" (an exhibition at the Waikato Museum in Hamilton though July 21) features 43 outfits from 25 films (including Robert Downey Jr.'s suit from "Sherlock Holmes"); their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/y3vh8pvu>. The exhibition is mounted by EDG <www.tinyurl.com/y3tsmy4q>, and will appear next at the Reading Public Museum in Reading, Pa., Sept. 21-Jan. 5. EDG also is responsible for the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition that's now at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., through May 27 <www.lsc.org>.

205. Apr 19 #5 Greg Ruby has reported that The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will hold a dinner meeting during the World's Fair of Money in Rosemont, Ill., on Aug. 15; all Sherlockians in the Chicago area will be welcome at the festivities, and details are available at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/y3a9djfc>.
206. Lucy Liu's star will be installed on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on May 1, at Hollywood and Vine, next to the star of Anna May Wong. Lucy Liu plays Joan Watson in the "Elementary" television series, and Anna May Wong was Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owens' "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), a few years after she was burlesqued in the British marionette film "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930). You can see if your favorite actor has a star using the search engine at <www.walkoffame.com>.
207. Bill Peschel blogs on behalf of his Peschel Press, and on Apr. 24 posted an amusing discussion of a "chaste salute" <www.tinyurl.com/y38apdsq>.
208. Susan B. Diamond ("The Great Mogul") died on Apr. 25. She was a member of the Beacon Society since it was founded in 2003, serving on its board of directors and as chair of its grants committee, and for many years helped organize the STUD-Watsonian Weekends and runnings of the Silver Blaze in Chicago. Susan also was an editor of *The Serpentine Muse* and for a time presided over the Prince Albert League (a society for consorts of members of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes). Susan received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1998.
209. Jennie Paton discovered the Global Gourmet Games, sponsored by the Milkin Institute; they were Sherlockian this year, in Los Angeles on Apr. 27; you can see Michael Milkin (as Sherlock Holmes) explaining the game's rules at their web-site <www.globalgourmetgames.org>.
210. It's always nice to see the work of artists who have illustrated Sherlockian and Doylean stories, and Fred Taraba (at Taraba Illustration Art) is offering (non-Sherlockian and non-Doylean) original artwork by Arthur I. Keller and Joseph Clement Coll, first come, first served; his e-mail address is <fredappraisals@gmail.com>.
211. Another (more noted) artist who had Doylean credentials was N. C. Wyeth, who provided illustrations for *The Last Galley* (1911) and *The White Company* (1922); four of his originals will be offered at Heritage Auctions on May 4, including an illustration for *The Boy's King Arthur* (1917) with a reserve of \$500,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y5yfbtvl>.
212. A nice result of the recent five-week government shut-down that curtailed all but essential agency activities was a reprieve for the troubled Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals instrument scheduled for the Mars rover due to land on the planet next year. The shut-down gave NASA time to plan minor modifications to SHERLOC (yes, that's the instrument's acronym) and avoid cancelling SHERLOC to mitigate continuing cost overruns on the mission, according to an announcement <www.tinyurl.com/y2fdpqfh> noted by Bill Anselm in *Space News* (Mar. 31). See the earlier report (Apr 14 #2) for more about SHERLOC.

213. Apr 19 #6 Is anyone watching the CBS All Access web-series "Star Trek: Discovery"? A discussion of the episode "Such Sweet Sorrow" (broadcast on Apr. 11) reported that when Amanda referred to Sarek as "impossible," he replied "I will accept improbable," with a reminder to viewers that that Spock quoted the Canonical axiom, attributing it to "an ancestor of mine" in the 1991 film "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country".
214. Theatrics: Brian Clemens' "Holmes and the Ripper" is running at the Caxton Little Theatre in Grimsby through May 4 <www.caxtontheatre.com>. And (as "Sherlock Holmes and the Ripper Murders") at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., until June 15 <www.genesiantheatre.com>.
215. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., through May 26 <www.bstreettheatre.org>.
216. Todd Wallinger's "The Enchanted Bookshop" is scheduled at the DCP Theatre in Telford, Pa., May 3-12 <www.dcptheatre.com>.
217. C.P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" will be performed at the Dunedin Community Center in Dunedin, Fla., May 3-11; web-site at <www.dunidenshowcasetheater.net>.
218. Ondrej G. Brzobohaty's "Legenda jménem Holmes" [A Legend Named Holmes] is scheduled at Musical Theater Karlín in Prague, May 8-Sept. 29; their web-site's at <www.hdk.cz/en/repertoire/57-holmes-the-legend>.
219. "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (a musical written by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) will be performed at the Coast Capital Playhouse in White Rock, B.C., on May 11 <www.whiterockplayers.ca>.
220. Roger Utting's new play "The Trial of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Milestone Centre in Caversham, Berks., May 16-18; their web-site's at <www.cavparktheatre.org.uk>.
221. Tal Avizer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Dancing Men" is due at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the Bronx, N.Y., June 1-9; web-site's at <www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org>.
222. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Very Little Theatre in Eugene, Ore., June 7-22; web-site at <www.thevlt.com>; and at the Vault Theater in Hillsboro, Ore., Dec. 5-23 <www.bag&baggage.org>.
223. Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" will be performed at the Charity Randall Theater in Pittsburgh, Pa., June 13-30 <www.tinyurl.com/y2dgwbsb>.

224. Katie Forgetting's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Bristol Valley Theater in Naples, N.Y., July 25 to Aug. 4 <www.bvtnaples.org>.
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225. May 19 #1 The Royal Mint has now made their 50p Sherlock Holmes coin available, in cupro-nickel in a presentation folder (£10.00) and in various other metals at higher prices. Greg Ruby offers helpful information at his Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yy7q9a7d>. The Royal Mint also has confirmed that the coin will go into circulation, but hasn't said when; so at some point you'll be able to get the coin for 50p.
226. Denny Dobry reports that the Baker Street Irregulars' book fair attracted a nice crowd of people interested in Sherlockiana that had been donated to the BSI Trust to be sold in support of the BSI Archives. Denny welcomes your want lists, and has sales lists available for all those in pursuit of reasonably-priced additions to their collections <dendobry@pdt.net>.
227. The spring issue of the Serpentine Muse, published quarterly by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, has an interesting history of the Muse, which was launched in 1975 and is still going strong, plus other news about the society. Subscriptions cost \$20.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230), and a copy of the spring issue is available for \$5.00 postpaid.
228. Conan Doyle's short story "A Shadow Before" was published in the Windsor Magazine (Dec. 1898) and then in The Green Flag and Other Stories (1900); the 14-page manuscript will be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 12, estimated at \$8,000-\$10,000. Randall Stock has an informative page on the manuscript (and its history) at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/shadow-before-2019.htm>.
229. According to an article about cricket by Pathikrit Sen Gupta at FirstPost (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/y39f2ntx>, on Apr. 11, 1913, militant suffragettes set fire to the pavilion at the Tunbridge Wells Cricket Club, and Conan Doyle, who was a keen cricket enthusiast, reacted indignantly at a meeting of the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage, calling the arsonists "female hooligans" and comparing their attack to "blowing up a blind man and his dog." No one is certain why the club was targeted, but it's said that some time prior to the attack a Kent official had commented: "It is not true that women are banned from the pavilion. Who do you think makes the teas?"
230. Tim Conway died on May 14. He was a delightful comic actor, and won four Emmy awards while starring for more than a decade on the television series "The Carol Burnett Show". He also played Sherlock Holmes in a skit on the "Tim Conway Show" (1981).
231. The television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" ran for three seasons (1999-2002) and ended with a "to be continued" cliffhanger for the next season, but New Line Television ran into financial difficulties and there was no fourth season. If you would like to know what was planned for the fourth season, Rich Heldenfels recently made available at <www.reeves-stevens.com/TLWSUMMARY1.pdf> the writers' detailed discussion of what they had in mind.
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232. May 19 #2 William S. Major's delightful Elementary Art: 100 Years Sherlock Holmes (Hawthorne: Silver Screen Collectibles, 2017; 167 pp., \$24.99) offers full-color reproductions of posters, lobby cards, and programs, in English and other languages, for a wide range of Sherlockian films and plays, and Sherlockian artwork used in advertising for non-Sherlockian films; it's nicely done, and the publisher's interesting web-site is at <www.silverscreencollectibles.com>.
233. Fodor's Travel' "How to Vacation at One of the Oldest Places on Earth" at <www.tinyurl.com/y2fpxhh5> discusses Mount Roraima, which is considered to be an inspiration for Conan Doyle's The Lost World; but: Fodor's also suggests that "given the current unrest in Venezuela, hold off on any travel plans until the situation in the country has stabilized."
234. There's more information about Michael Mitnick's new play "Mysterious Circumstances" (which is due at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles June 11-July 14 <www.geffenplayhouse.org/mysterious-circumstances>; the play's inspired by David Grann's article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green, and the cast will feature Alan Tudyk (Richard Lancelyn Green and Sherlock Holmes) Hugo Armstrong (The American and others), Austin Durant (Conan Doyle and others), Leo Marks (Smith and others), Ramiz Monsef (Watson and others), and Helen Sadler (Touie and others).
235. Randall Stock continues to update various pages at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site; his helpful discussion of facsimile editions of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 is at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/rfbeet.htm>.
236. The ornate Arthur Conan Doyle bookplate that his son Adrian placed in the books in the library at the Chateau de Lucens in Switzerland is fairly well known, and sometimes believed by the unwary to have been used by Sir Arthur. His son Denis, it seems, had his own bookplate, and a batch of them was offered at Chiswick Auctions in London on May 30, with an opening bid of £50 <www.tinyurl.com/y53y93c8>. Is anyone aware of the existence a book that was owned by Denis, and has the bookplate?
237. Charles Veley and Anna Elliott have written eight pastiches about Sherlock Holmes and his daughter Lucy James <www.sherlockandlucy.com>, and you can download The Crown Jewel Mystery free at their web-site; you can also sample the audiobooks, nicely read by Simon Prebble and Wendy Tremont King.
238. The Official Sherlock Puzzle Book, by Chris Maslanka and Steve Tribe (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2018; 259 pp., \$17.95), first published by BBC Books in 2017 as a tie-in to the "Sherlock" series, presents more than 165 challenging puzzles featuring characters from the Canon.
239. Howard Ostrom reported on "Sherlok" (a musical group in Montpellier whose songs are written and composed by Katia Plachez, Alain Cahuac, and Christophe Dubois. You can view two of their (non-Sherlockian) music videos at <www.tinyurl.com/y47pqa36> and <www.tinyurl.com/yy54x2c>. And there's an interview with Katia Plachez on France 3 TV at <www.tinyurl.com/y5rxkqel>.
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240. May 19 #3 Andrew Glazzard's The Case of Sherlock Holmes (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018; 252 pp., £75.00) discusses the "secrets and lies in Conan Doyle's detective fiction," using a scholarly close reading to explore seven themes (finance, class, family, sex, race, war, and secrecy) he found in the Canon, placing the stories in historical context and drawing intriguing inferences such as the possibility that the Hon. Ronald Adair actually was Colonel Moran's willing accomplice.
241. Turn your computer into a typewriter! With a Querkywriter keyboard! More information is available at <www.querkywriter.com>.
242. Martin Fido died on Apr. 2. He was a professor, teaching writing at Boston University, and an author who wrote about true crime in Murder Guide to London (1986) and went on to become an expert in the crimes and world of Jack the Ripper. He also wrote The World of Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective and His Era (Mar 99 #1), which was updated for a second edition as Sherlock: The Facts and Fiction Behind the World's Greatest Detective (Mar 16 #3).
243. N. C. Wyeth's original artwork for an illustration for The Boy's King Arthur (Apr 19 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/y5yfbtvl> sold for \$615,000 (including the buyer's premium).
244. Arwel Jones, the production designer for the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, had advice in the Hollywood Reporter on May 22 for those who would like to find and use five signature wallpapers that were used in the series, at 221B Baker Street and elsewhere <www.tinyurl.com/y5q7s7am>.

245. The Royal Mail has issued a set of stamps honoring the bicentenary of the birth of Queen Victoria; one of them shows a portrait of the “certain gracious lady” (as Watson wrote in “The Bruce-Partington Plans”) painted by Heinrich von Angeli in 1890. There’s more information about the stamps (and a new £5 coin) at <www.tinyurl.com/y2rmth44>.
246. This year’s San Diego Comic-Con, to be held in San Diego, Calif., July 18-21, will include the Great SherlockDCC Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by the Baker Street Babes <www.sherlockedccparty.tumblr.com>. More than 130,000 people are expected at the convention, which includes a multitude of fandoms.
247. Rob Nunn has announced a new professional Sherlockian society, the Priory Teacher’s Association, for current and past educators; you can contact him at <www.robertanunn@gmail.com> or at 13 West Pickett’s Crossing, Edwardsville, IL 62025.
248. Millie Bobby Brown told the World of Entertainment News Network this month that she plans to start filming this summer on a feature film based on the series of books written by Nancy Springer about Enola Holmes, the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock (May 18 #6); she’s the producer as well as the star, and you can see her now in the Netflix series “Stanger Things” and (this summer) in the film “Godzilla: King of the Monsters”.

249. May 19 #4 The seventh and final season of “Elementary” has begun on CBS-TV, to the delight of the series’ fans. No spoilers here, but Entertainment Tonight Online had an interesting interview with Rob Doherty on May 23 <www.tinyurl.com/y6yq8xxw>. Doherty is the creator and showrunner of the series, and has some nice stories to tell, including an explanation (well, just one spoiler) of why Joan Watson has gone blonde.
250. Garrison Keillor’s “The Writer’s Almanac” was launched in 1993 and syndicated by Minnesota Public Radio until 2017. It is now a podcast, and he paid tribute to Conan Doyle on his birthday <www.tinyurl.com/y3lrmaxd>.
251. The Affair of the Mysterious Letter, by Alexis Hall (New York: Ace, 2019; 338 pp., \$16.00), is a delightful fantasy that features a consulting sorceress named Shaharazad Haas and her sometimes-bewildered housemate Capt. John Wyndham; the initials are not just a coincidence: they live at 221B Martyrs Walk and the novel has many allusions to the Canon.
252. One sees Sherlockian icons everywhere: Jim Toomey’s “Sherman’s Lagoon” is a widely syndicated comic strip that began a weekday thread on May 18 featuring the brainy fish Ernest detecting in a deerstalker. Comics Kingdom has a paywall that requires that you pay to see all but the most recent dates (unless you sign up for a free trial), or you can wait until the annual collection for 2019 is published in 2021.
253. Jennie Paton found an imaginative Sherlockian wall mural advertised at the Society6 web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yykrdsox>. And for those whose walls are covered with bookshelves, Society6 offers a wide range of other Sherlockiana.
254. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world’s first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in San Antonio on May 22 during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, made welcome by The Strange Old Book Collectors and other Texans. We were glad to toast Conan Doyle on his 160th birthday, and we will meet next in Phoenix on Sept. 25, and in Houston on June 10, 2020.
255. Denise Varner called our attention to Toni Dwiggin’s series (now with five titles) of mysteries starring forensic geologists Cassie Oldfield and Walter Shaws; the author’s web-site’s at <www.tonidwiggin.com>. Two other authors of forensic-geology mysteries are Sarah Andrews, whose detective is Em Hansen <www.sarahandrews.net> and Susan Cummins Miller, whose series features Frankie McFarlane <www.susancumminsmiller.com>.
256. And Sherlock Holmes was indeed a forensic geologist, as noted by the late Raymond C. Murray in his textbook Evidence from the Earth: Forensic Geology and Criminal Investigation (2011), and by John McPhee in his Annals of the Former World (1998). McPhee also has an essay about “The Gravel Page” in his collection Irons in the Fire (1997); the title of the essay is an allusion to Sherlock Holmes’ mention of “the gravel page” (in “The Hound of the Baskervilles”).

257. May 19 #5 Edinburgh Live honored Conan Doyle’s birthday on May 22 with a story about the letter he wrote in 1882 when he submitted his story “An Actor’s Duel” to Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine; it was the second story he submitted to the magazine, which rejected both of them. The letter is owned by the National Library of Scotland, and you can read the article online at <www.tinyurl.com/yxkm6gzx>.
258. Jennie Paton has spotted a YouTube video that shows Toni Zee happily opening a package containing a doll in Sherlockian costume <www.tinyurl.com/y4pdafbr>. The doll is made by a Korean company called Pullip and is a character named Isul (dressed as the “Detective of the Future”). It cost \$154.00 when it was issued six years ago <www.tinyurl.com/yy3ht9ew>, and the sad news for eager collectors is that it is now out of stock. Of course there’s an after-market: you can search for [isul i-924] at eBay and find that the doll is available from sellers in Japan from \$527.99 to \$689.00.
259. 70 Years by Gas Lamp: The Illustrious Clients’ Sixth Casebook, edited by Mary Ann Bradley, Louise Haskett, and Melanie Hoffman (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 257 pp., \$21.95), celebrates the 70th anniversary of the society’s first casebook <www.wessexpress.com/html/70years.html>.
260. The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club has launched a new web-site (“The Writings about the Writings in Japan”) that offers abstracts (in English) of monographs that have been published in their annual journal The World of Sherlock Holmes <www.holmesjapan.jp/english/writings.index.html>. The journal was launched in 1978, and abstracts now are available for issues from 2002 to 2010, offering an excellent look at the sort of scholarship written by Sherlockians in Japan.
261. Margaret H. Laing honored Conan Doyle’s birthday with an amusing post to the Chicago Tribune’s “Chicago Now” blog on “Birthday Time in the Imaginary Writers’ Room” <www.tinyurl.com/y2ghke8s>; you can search her archive to find earlier posts about Conan Doyle, and Holmes.
262. Victor R. Lahti died on May 15. Vic was a petroleum geologist, worked and lived in Texas and Oklahoma, and was an enthusiastic member of the Practical, But Limited, Geologists. He also presided for many years over the Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa, and edited their newsletter the Afghanistan Perceivers Dispatch.
263. “Sherlock ist zurück und will bleiben,” the Jungfrau Zeitung announced on May 1, in a story about what’s new at the Sherlock Holmes Museum; it’s all in German <www.jungfrauzeitung.ch/artikel/173263>, with pictures in full color, and Google Translate will be of assistance to those who need help in reading the story in English. And “Der Glücksfall fürs Haslital” was the headline on a story on May 4 <www.jungfrauzeitung.ch/artikel/173428> with more news and more pictures. For the benefit of those who aren’t up to speed with Schweizerdeutsch, the headlines on the stories translate as “Sherlock is Back and Wants to Remain” and “The Stroke of Luck for Haslital” (that’s the area where Meiringen is located).

264. May 19 #6 Nick Utechin kindly forwarded a BBC News video from the opening of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition in London in 1951. And you have a chance to see Arthur Wontner rather older than when he played Holmes on screen in the 1930s <www.tinyurl.com/yy4mb54q>. Howard Ostrom has identified the man who impersonated Holmes: Michael Weight, who presided over the Exhibition’s reconstruction of the sitting-room at 221b.
265. Theatrical news: Craig Sodaro’s “The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes” will be performed at the Innisfail Middle School in Innisfail, Alta., June 5-7 <www.innisfailmiddle.ca>.

266. Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" will be performed at the Charity Randall Theater in Pittsburgh, Pa., June 13-30 <www.tinyurl.com/y2dgwbsb>.
 267. Kenneth Brown and John D. Huston's "2 Sherlock Holmes Adventures" will be performed at the Arts Court Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., June 14-22, during the Ottawa Fringe <www.tinyurl.com/y22omxuy>.
 268. Greg Freeman and Ken McClymont's "Sherlock Holmes and the Invisible Thing" (first produced in 2016 and now revised and restaged by Freeman) will be performed at the Rudolf Steiner Theatre in London, from July 17 to Aug. 18 www.thesherlockplay.co.uk
 269. Thomas Moore's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is touring in Britain and will be performed during the Ventnor Fringe at the Magpie in Ventnor, Isle of Wight, July 24-27 <www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk>; the two-actor play features Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Jane Watson.
 270. Douglas Maxwell's new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Northern Stage in Newcastle upon Tyne, Sept. 11-23; web-site at <www.northernstage.co.uk>.
 271. Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the 1st Baker Street Irregular" will be performed at the Parkview Physicians Group ArtsLab in Fort Wayne, Ind., Sept. 20-29 <www.tinyurl.com/yydfrvh9>.
 272. Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be performed at the All an Act Theatre in Erie, Pa., Sept. 27-Oct. 20 <www.allanact.net>; and at the First Folio Theatre in Oakbrook, Ill., Oct. 2-Nov. 3 <www.firstfolio.org>.
 273. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be produced at the McAninch Arts Center in Glen Ellyn, Ill., Sept. 5-Oct. 6 <www.atthemac.org>; at the Derby Dinner Playhouse in Clarksville, Ind., Oct. 2-Nov. 10 <www.derbydinner.com>; and at the Cumberland County Theatre in Crossville, Tenn., Oct. 11 to Nov. 7 <www.ccplayhouse.com>.
 274. R. Hamilton Wright's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" will be performed at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Alta., from Nov. 9 to Dec. 8 www.vertigotheatre.com
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275. Jun 19 #1 If you would like to receive news from the Baker Street Irregulars about events and books and such, you can sign up for occasional messages at the BSI web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>; that will also put you on the mailing list for the announcement of registration for the BSI's Archive Conference on Nov. 8-10 at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind., the new home of the BSI Archive. The conference is open to everyone; Ross Davies and Glen Miranker have assembled a splendid list of speakers from the worlds of collecting, bookselling, and publishing, and you'll have a chance to see other interesting collections at the Lilly.
 276. Nick Utechin was watching the BBC Two "Newsnight" program on May 29, and heard British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, discussing Brexit, say: "You know, it is Sherlock Holmes who once said, when you rule out everything else, whatever's left, however disagreeable, may be the only question of how you get there."
 277. July 17 is World Emoji Day <www.worldemojiday.com>. There seems to be no Sherlock Holmes emoji, nor even a Detective emoji, but they do have a Foot (for those who believe the game is afoot). Has anyone campaigned to have a Sherlock Holmes emoji created?
 278. The Boomerang streaming service has launched a new 13-episode weekly animated series "Scooby Doo and Guess Who?" and the official trailer has She lock Holmes (voiced by Ian James Corlett) as one of the celebrities the gang encounters. The series also will air on the Cartoon network starting in July. Here's the trailer: <www.tinyurl.com/y6s2xr82>.
 279. Conan Doyle's 14-page manuscript for his short story "A Shadow Before" at auction at Christie's in New York this month (May 19 #1) was estimated at \$8,000-\$10,000 and sold for \$13,750 (including the buyer's premium). The same sale included an autograph letter from Edgar Allan Poe, estimated at \$20,000-\$30,000 (sold for \$52,500), and Poe's pocket watch, estimated at \$80,000-\$120,000 (sold for \$250,000). Randall Stock offers an informative page on "A Shadow Before" (and its history) at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/shadow-before-2019.htm>.
 280. Randall also offers information about a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that's up for auction at Profiles in History on July 11 <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/hound-baskervilles-h31-2019.htm> estimated at \$120,000-\$150,000 (it was advertised by Pepper & Stern in 1994 at \$22,500).
 281. The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State held their annual Christopher Morley Birthday Luncheon in Hoboken on Apr. 28, when Terry Hunt unveiled some delightful newsreel footage showing Morley and Cleon Throckmorton hosting the first Hoboken Free State Dachshund Contest, which was held in 1929.
 282. <<https://mirc.sc.edu/islandora/object/usc%3A28804>>; Morley is at the left in the opening segment. Terry found the footage in the Fox-Movietone News archive in the Moving Image Research Collection at the University of South Carolina; it's a grand resource indeed.
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283. Jun 19 #2 Claus von Bülow died on May 15. Convicted of attempted murder of his wife Sunny in 1982, he was acquitted in a second trial in 1985 with the assistance of his new love interest Andrea Reynolds (who was mentioned in passing in some of his obituaries); the wife of Sheldon Reynolds, who had produced two Sherlock Holmes television series in 1954 and 1981, Andrea for a time controlled the Conan Doyle copyrights, which she once described as "like owning an oil well." Jeremy Irons starred as von Bülow in the film "Reversal of Fortune" (1990), with Christine Baransky as Andrea.
 284. Samantha Wolov spotted Dustin Hoffman in Sherlockian costume, on the cover of the DVD case for "Madigan's Millions"; it's an Italian comedy ("Un dollar per 7 vigliacchi"), released in Italy in 1968 and then in the U.S. in 1969). Hoffman plays Jason Fister, a bumbling U.S. Treasury agent who is sent to Italy to find money taken there from the U.S. by a deported gangster. There's nothing Sherlockian in or about the film itself (it's available at YouTube and elsewhere).
 285. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of India <www.sherlockholmessociety.in>, now in its seventh year, and the current issue (with 100 colorful pages) offers Sherlockian news from India, and a nice mix of scholarship and pastiche; all issues of the Proceedings can be found at the society's web-site.
 286. Howard Ostrom and Thierry Saint-Joanis' SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREENS 1940-1959 is the second volume of their Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia (Saint-Sauvier: Mycroft's Brother Editions, 2019; 168 pp., €30.00), and it's a grand extension of their research into films and television <www.mycrofts.net>; the entries feature contemporary reviews, posters, press books, and photographs, and include actors seen in Sherlockian costume only in advertising, with some interesting surprises. Copies (inscribed on request) are available for delivery in the U.S. for \$35.00 postpaid, from Howard (5748 SW 60th Place, Ocala, FL 34474).
 287. "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Greatest Jail Breaker" is a new animated film that's due for release in Hong Kong on Aug. 1; it's based on a five-book series written by Lia Ho and illustrated by Yu Yuen Wong that is available in English as e-books at Amazon and elsewhere (\$4.99 each), and there's more information about the film at <www.tinyurl.com/29ycxvz>.
 288. "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson: A Medical Detective Story" is an exhibition that opened this month at the Military Medical Museum in St. Petersburg, Alexander Orlov reports; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yxntuodz> (all in Russian, but Google Translate will be of assistance).

289. "Queen Victoria, Smiling and in Sunglasses, Found Anew on Film" reads the headline on a story in the N.Y. Times on May 30 <www.tinyurl.com/y6qxxyfts> (kindly reported by Al Rosenblatt); don't neglect the article's link to a longer MoMA video. The Smithsonian also reported on the find at its web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y4dmcmmam>.
290. Jun 19 #3 Brian W. Pugh is the winner of this year's Tony and Freda Howlett Literary Award (recognizing the outstanding contribution to the literature of Sherlock Holmes) from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London for his revised and expanded fourth edition of *A Chronology of the Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* (Oct 18 #4). It's a grand resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle, and it's available from <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
291. Lucy Liu's Joan Watson is "the best-dressed detective on TV," according to Emma Foster, who interviewed Rebecca Hoffher (the costume designer for the "Elementary" series) for *Vulture* on May 31 <www.tinyurl.com/yxocuxdq>.
292. The new television mini-series "The Name of the Rose" likely led at least some of its viewers to wonder about the significance of the rose. Umberto Eco, the book's author, offered his explanation in a letter that went to auction this month. He wrote to Philip Sterling, a New York bibliophile, that, "As for the title, the rose is so overwhelmed with symbolic meanings that everyone can fill it up with every possible interpretation. As a matter of fact I was thinking of the last line of my book: 'the rose of yore remains only through its name and we hold only bare names.' It seemed to me that such a line was a good epitome for a book dominated by 'nominalistic' feelings and based upon other books."
293. Jennie Paton spotted a neat demonstration of what one can do with CGI now <www.youtube.com/watch?v=EM78NyfeODM> (someone had fun with "Sherlock").
294. The German musical "Sherlock Holmes--Next Generation" now offers its music on an MP3 album (£9.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y5tf3nyt>. The musical premiered last January in Hamburg, and there's more information at The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/yxetpwt8>.
295. The Langham Hotel, site of the fateful dinner where Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde were asked to write stories for Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, also is mentioned in three of the Canonical stories; it's one of the many properties owned by The Langham Hotels & Resorts, and the company has unveiled a new logo and brand campaign <www.tinyurl.com/y5vanah9> inspired by "the brand's distinctively British heritage," explaining that the Langham was known as Europe's first grand hotel when it was opened in 1865 by the Prince of Wales.
296. Further to the previous report (Oct 18 #2) on "Sherlock: The Game Is Now" (billed as "the only official Sherlock Holmes Escape Game"), it is still going strong and now includes a private cocktail club that's called "The Mind Palace" <www.thegameisnow.com/mind-palace> and offers private screenings and pop-up Sherlockian events.
297. "London Detective Mysteria" is an otome visual novel that appeared on the PlayStation Portable in 2013 (otome is a Japanese story-based visual game that's targeted toward women); you can see video about the first episode "Meeting Sherlock Holmes & Watson" at <www.tinyurl.com/y2xxy78n>. There now is a physical copy of the game available from Limited Run Editions for the PlayStation Vita <www.limitedrungames.com>.
298. Jun 19 #4 Douglas G. Greene's *JOHN DICKSON CARR: THE MAN WHO EXPLAINED MIRACLES* (Apr 95 #7), long out of print, is now available as an e-book from Crippen & Landru (\$8.99) <www.tinyurl.com/yy9cy2oo>. It's a splendid biography about a man who was a mastery of the "impossible mystery" genre, wrote an excellent biography of Conan Doyle, adaptations of "The Lost World" and "The Speckled Band" for BBC Radio, amusing Sherlockian parody-playlets performed at the annual dinners of the Mystery Writers of America, and (with Adrian Conan Doyle) a series of pastiches. Carr also from time to time disposed of all his personal papers, presenting problems for any biographer, but Greene persevered, and the results are well worth reading.
299. Philip Purser-Hallard's *Sherlock Holmes: The Vanishing Man* (New York: Titan, 2019; 279 pp., \$14.95) involves Holmes and Watson with an intricate locked-room mystery, a rich London business man, and murder.
300. If you don't already have enough Sherlockian neckties, there's a new design offered in four colors by Edutxwstore (\$17.52), spotted by Jennie Paton <www.tinyurl.com/y5lltv8m>.
301. AcornTV <www.acorn.tv> is a subscription streaming service that has added the first season of the ITV series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971) to its schedule, with fine actors in good stories.
302. Sleep tight with Sherlock Gnomes: Jennie Paton spotted a colorful Sherlock Gnomes Bedding Set (\$70.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y3ykgy4s>.
303. Ray Betzner launched his "Studies in Starrett" blog five years ago, pursuing all aspects of Vincent Starrett, and reminisces about it in an interview with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at <www.tinyurl.com/y5wh7zpy>.
304. "Seeing a murder on television . . . can help work off one's antagonisms. And if you haven't any antagonisms, the commercials will give you some." Alfred Hitchcock, quoted by Kate Stine in her on-line Mystery Scene newsletter <www.mysteryscenemag.com>.
305. Further to the item (May 19 #2) on Denis Conan Doyle's bookplate, it was used: Doug Wrigglesworth reports that he has it in his copy of the George Newnes first British edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1892).
306. Mick Finlay's *The Murder Pit* (Toronto: MIRA, 2019; 426 pp., \$15.99) continues the adventures of William Arrowood, who calls himself an "emotional agent" rather than the "detective agent" Holmes (Arrowood has rather harsh things to say about how Holmes has, or hasn't, managed to solve some of his cases); the story is set in a working-class world that's far from the setting of the Canon, with interesting characters and a good mystery. The author's web-site is at <www.mickfinlay.com>, with a blog that offers posts such as "the bloody origins of the modern bowler hat."
307. It's neither Sherlockian nor Doylean, but: "if you remember tape recorders and cassettes" <www.tinyurl.com/y6g4bdof>, Bas Bleu suggests, advertising something that will surely puzzle younger generations who don't.
308. Jun 15 #5 Robert Dobson's *The Library of the Lost: In Search of Forgotten Authors* (2015) is a delightful collection of articles and essays by a writer who was interested in the weird and the wonderful, and it includes his "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Mystery" (reprinted from *Antiquarian Book Monthly Review*, Feb. 1988). The first edition cost \$60.00, but it's now out of print; fortunately there are less expensive reprints available at <www.abebooks.com>, and the magazine's offered by Oak Knoll Books <www.oakknoll.com> for \$5.00.
309. "Q.E.D.: Murder on the Bluebell Line" was a British program broadcast by BBC-1 in 1987, based on Charles Blinderman's *The Piltdown Inquest* (1986). The program has Holmes and Watson on the Bluebell Line to Piltdown, and on the way they "review the evidence and the 'criminal records' of the people involved." Hugh Fraser played Sherlock Holmes, and Ronald Fraser was Watson, and Jennie Paton has found it at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yyfdwjcd>.
310. NBC San Diego reported on July 10 from Comic Con San Diego that "Sherlock" show-runner Steven Moffatt revealed that he actually already had crafted a Sherlock Holmes/Doctor Who crossover: in his youth he cast his sister to play both characters in a home movie ("I made it years ago," he said, "I'm over it.")

311. Another quote from Moffat: four years ago he told Entertainment Weekly he thought fan fiction is “creative and exciting,” and that while there is a tendency to disparage it, “I don’t agree . . . I refuse to mock it—because I’m a man who writes Sherlock Holmes fan fiction for a living.”
 312. Richard A. Lupoff’s *The Universal Holmes* (Vancleave: Ramble House, 2007; 148 pp., \$30.00 cloth/\$18.00 paper) is a collection of his pastiches, including an amusing recipe for Giant Rat of Sumatra Stew. It is still in print from the publisher <www.ramblehouse.com>, along with other Sherlockian books by Lupoff, John Kendrick Bangs, Derham Groves, and Gary Lovisi.
 313. Variety reported on June 9 <www.tinyurl.com/y4yqohan> on plans for a new French animated series “The Baker Street Four” based on six French comic books written by Jean-Blaise Dijan and Olivier Legrand and illustrated by David Etien; the comic books also are available in English, and they feature ragamuffins Billy, Charlie, and Tom, and their cat Watson, who all assist Sherlock Holmes.
 314. Gretchen McCulloch suggested in *Wired* (June 11) that “Fans Are Better Than Tech at Organizing Information Online” <www.tinyurl.com/y4nu862w>; the article is about Archive of Our Own (AO3), a fan-fiction archive that offers almost five million fan-works and uses “tag wranglers” to help users find things in the archive, and explains how the system works for Sherlockian fan-fiction.
 315. *Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Undead Client*, by M. J. Downing (Louisville: Burns and Lea, 2018; 264 pp., \$10.99), involves Holmes and Watson in a murder mystery featuring horrific experiments, voodoo, and zombies, and a new solution to the identification of Jack the Ripper. The author’s web-site is at <www.downingplace.com>.
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316. Jun 19 #6 Further to the item (Mar 14 #6) about the sale of the former Cedars Spiritualist Church in Ipswich, where Conan Doyle attended seances in the 1920s, the building was purchased by a developer for £500,000 and was converted into two spacious four-story town houses that are now being offered for £1.25 million to £1.35 million, according to a nicely-illustrated article in the Ipswich Star <www.tinyurl.com/y6cmjs4e>.
 317. Hugh Ashton’s *The Darlington Substitution* (published by Inknbeans in 2012) now is available from J-Views Publishing (222 pp., \$9.99); it’s a new version of one of the unrecorded cases. The author’s web-site has links to all of his pastiches <www.hughashtonbooks.com>.
 318. *The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes: The Greatest Detective Stories, 1837-1914*, edited by Graeme Davis (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2019; 379 pp., \$25.95), ranges from William Evans Burton to Ernest Bramah, offering a chance to read authors who preceded Holmes, or were published in the years he was absent from *The Strand Magazine*, or competed head to head after Holmes returned.
 319. Also from Pegasus: Kaite Welsh’s *The Unquiet Heart* (2019, 281 pp., \$25.95) features Sarah Gilchrist, a young woman who is studying medicine in Edinburgh in 1893, mentored by Dr. Gregory Merchiston, who (with Conan Doyle) studied under Dr. Joseph Bell (and doesn’t like to be reminded of it); the story includes murders, and romance, and a good look at society (high and low) in those days. Her web-site is at <www.katiwelsh.wordpress.com>.
 320. The Park Plaza Sherlock Holmes Hotel on Baker Street has been renovated, and now is the boutique Holmes Hotel London on Chiltern Street (only the entrance has been moved); details at <www.tinyurl.com/y2ohbodu>.
 321. Gene Wolfe died on Apr. 14. As an industrial engineer with Procter & Gamble he helped create the frying process used for Pringles stackable potato chips, and he then turned to writing and became an award-winning author of science-fiction and fantasy; his short story “The Rubber Bend” (a pastiche of both Nero Wolfe and Sherlock Holmes) was published in *Universe Science Fiction* (May 1974) and collected in *Storeys from the Old Hotel* (1988).
 322. Further to the item (Mar 19 #7) about plans to convert Great Scotland Yard into a hotel, Hospitality reported on June 11 <www.tinyurl.com/y32johx8> that the Great Scotland Yard Hotel will be a luxury hotel in Hyatt’s Unbound Collection, and will open in late summer. The report offers details and images that show just how luxurious the hotel will be.
 323. Another addition to Hyatt’s Unbound Collection is the Hôtel du Louvre in Paris, opened in 1855 as Paris’ first grand hotel. It is mentioned in the Canon (“The Bruce-Partington Plans”), and you can see how grand it is now at its web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ydew5bxg> (standard room rate is €490.00).
 324. Stephen Thorne died on May 26. He had a long acting career, beginning on stage in the 1950s, but his magnificent voice made him a natural for radio (usually for the BBC); he recorded more than 350 books, and played Inspector Lestrade in the Clive Merrison’s BBC Radio series.
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325. Jun 19 #7 If you are, or know someone who is, a woman book collector in the United States, aged 30 or under, the Honey & Wax Book Collecting Prize is worth investigating <www.honeyandwaxbooks.com/prize.php>. The deadline for the 2019 prize is past, but there’s plenty of time to apply for 2020. Honey & Wax is an interesting book-selling partnership between Heather O’Donnell and Rebecca Romney; they have an attractive web-site where they offer some fascinating books.
 326. “The Long-Lasting Fascination with Sherlock Holmes: It’s Elementary” was the headline on Michael Dirda’s “Book World” review in the Washington Post (June 20)<www.tinyurl.com/yxwleq39>, with mentions of Sherlockian societies as well as a review of recent books.
 327. The question of where Sherlock Holmes went to college has been argued for decades, Oxford and Cambridge being the obvious (but not the only) candidates. Nicholas Utechin, who has long championed Oxford, discusses what he calls The Controversy in an excellent 40-page pamphlet that features on its back cover the colorful artwork that Frederic Dorr Steele drew for “The Three Students” (but Collier’s didn’t publish); £10.00, and details are available from Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>. Nick insists that he merely presents what everyone has written on the subject, and lets his readers decide who’s correct.
 328. Jennie Paton has found some programs from the 30-minute “Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson” series (1980) at YouTube; this was the series produced by Sheldon Reynolds with Geoffrey Whitehead as Holmes and Donald Pickering as Watson. Search YouTube for [geoffrey whitehead].
 329. More news about the Royal Mint’s new 50p Sherlock Holmes coin: you’re invited to strike your own Sherlock Holmes coin at the Royal Mint; details at Greg Ruby’s “Fourth Garrideb” web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yxr4gf2p>. All you need to do is visit the Royal Mint, now located in Pontyclun in South Wales, pay £13.00 to take their tour, and £6.90 more for the coin (one per customer).
 330. Viv Croot’s *Biographic Sherlock* (Lewes: Ammonite, 2018; 96 pp., \$14.95) is an imaginative use of infographics (graphic visual representations of information) to presents facts about Holmes, his world, and his cases; it’s part of a series, and you can see what they’re all about at the publisher’s web-site at <www.ammonitepress.com>. Infographics are as old as 1626 (according to Wikipedia); everyone has seen them, and they’re useful indeed. The Wikipedia entry is well worth exploring.
 331. KCAL-TV (Los Angeles) reported on June 22 that the latest case of measles in the city had been tracked to one known person who exposed other people at the Geffen Playhouse on June 7. “Hopefully, they disinfected the theater,” said Marsha Niles, who had come to enjoy Sherlock Holmes. “We’ll hope for the best.” She had come to enjoy Michel Mitnick’s new play “Mysterious Circumstances” (which is inspired by David Grann’s article in the New Yorker about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green). The play has been favorably reviewed in the local press, but no reviews are at hand yet from any local Sherlockians.

332. Jun 19 #8 Woodlark is a band, founded in 2012, that plays “an eclectic mixture of power metal, epic metal, prog rock, and ballads,” and their latest album “The Ascension” includes a track called “Sherlock Holmes” that you can listen to at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yyft2dwd>. It was spotted by Jennie Paton, who notes that they kindly provide the lyrics for the song.
333. Mark Kilmurray’s new play “Murder on the Wireless: The Solitary Cyclist” is being performed at the Ensemble Theatre in Kirribilli, N.S.W., through July 13 <www.ensemble.com.au>.
334. Jeffrey Hatcher’s “Holmes and Watson” is running at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., through July 22 <www.alleytheatre.org>. It’s also due at the Austin Playhouse in Austin, Texas, Sept.6-29 www.austinplayhouse.com.
335. Jules Tasca’s “An Evening with Sherlock Holmes” will be performed at the Limelight Theatre in Perth, W.A., July 4-13 <www.limelighttheatre.com.au>.
336. Steven Canny and John Nicholson’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” will be performed at Upstairs at the Gatehouse in London, July 4-7; their web-site is at <www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com>. Also at Theatre Horizon in Norristown, Pa., Nov. 10 to Dec. 8 <www.theatrehorizon.org>.
337. “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (newly dramatized by Marc Camoletti, Beverley Cross, and Francis Evans) is coming to the Spire Center for the Performing Arts in Plymouth, Mass., July 20-28 <www.americantheatre.org>.
338. “Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes” is scheduled during the Edinburgh Fringe at Just The Tonic at the Caves in Edinburgh, Aug. 1-11 (it is advertised as “No script, Sherlock!”) <www.tinyurl.com/y2bpam8>.
339. Scott McDowell’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Candy Murder” is due at the Overtime Theater in San Antonio, Tex., Aug 9-31; their web-site’s at <www.tinyurl.com/yye4obdm>.
340. “Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes” (by Jamie Robledo will be performed at the Little Theatre in New London, Minn., Aug. 1-11 <www.newlondonlittletheatre.com>.
341. “Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé” (by David MacGregor) is due at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Sept. 19-Dec. 21 <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.
342. Christopher M. Walsh’s “Miss Holmes” is scheduled at the Rochester Repertory Theatre in Rochester, Minn., Oct. 4-20 <www.rochesterrep.org>.
343. “Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Basketcases” (a British pantomime) will be performed at the Highbury Theatre Centre in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, Nov. 26-30 <www.fromthetop.org.uk>.

Jul 19 #1

344. An interesting autograph postcard was offered at Forum Auctions in London this month, estimated at £1,200-£1,800: Conan Doyle wrote from Windlesham (about 1920) that “It is a fact that Holmes has some traits of Dr. Bell of Edinburgh. To say that he is entirely based on him would be an exaggeration. My first book (I have written stories since 1878) was ‘A Study in Scarlet’, a Sherlock Holmes booklet published as Beeton’s Annual in 1888.”
 345. And yes, Conan Doyle likely didn’t remember dates, all those years later: “The Mystery of Sasassa Valley” was published in Sept. 1879, and “A Study in Scarlet” in 1887. The bidders didn’t care: the hammer price was £14,000 (add 30% for the buyer’s premium). Randall Stock has an excellent discussion of the postcard at <www.tinyurl.com/yxqgo6ls>.
 346. Two Conan Doyle manuscripts went to auction at Christie’s on July 10: an unpublished chapter from “The Land of Mist” was estimated at £3,000-£5,000 and sold for £13,750 (including the buyer’s premium); and a poem “Shakespeare’s Expostulation” was estimated at £1,000-£1,500 and sold for £2,125. Visit <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2019.htm> to see Randall’s detailed (and nicely illustrated) descriptions of the two items.
 347. Randall also offers information about a page from the manuscript of “The Hound of the Baskervilles” that went to auction at Profiles in History on July 11 <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/hound-baskervilles-h31-2019.htm>; it was estimated at \$120,000-\$150,000 and did not sell.
 348. “A Tale of Two Villages” is the title of Richard Olken’s report on the recent “Dark Deeds in the Canon” conference arranged by the Reichenbach Irregulars in Switzerland <www.tinyurl.com/y3rozxju>, offering everybody a chance to see what you missed; the local Sherlockians are planning another conference in two or three years.
 349. “Sherlock Holmes” is a 7-minute track on The Ascension, a new album from the power-metal band WOODLARK; it’s nice that you can listen to the track at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUVEEYSSSqU>.
 350. “Are you named after Conan the Barbarian?” an interviewer asked Conan Osborne, captain of the Jamaica National Rugby Sevens team. “My dad likes to think so,” he replied, “but my mum claims it’s a little more sophisticated as I’m named after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.” You can read the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/y5ye7nx7>.
 351. Bill Peschel launched his “223B Casebook Series” in 2014, offering the results of his survey of the many parodies and pastiches published in newspapers, magazines, and books while Conan Doyle lived, reprinting them with footnotes and brief accounts of what Conan Doyle was doing each year, and there are nine volumes, concluding with SHERLOCK HOLMES: JAZZ AGE PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1925-1930 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2019; 341 pp.), and (selected from the first eight volumes) THE BEST SHERLOCK HOLMES PARODIES & PASTICHES: 1888-1930 (2019; 373 pp.) (each \$15.95). Bill’s web-site is at <www.peschelpress.com>.
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352. Jul 19 #2 The Exhibits Development Group’s “International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes” (now at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., through May 27) has no bookings beyond that, and the standard rental fee has been reduced to \$300,000 from \$450,000 (in case you know of a museum that might be a venue for the exhibition). Details on the exhibition are available at <www.tinyurl.com/y2aa7gwc>; museums should contact them at <info@exhibitsdevelopment.com>. It is well worth seeing (if you have not already seen it), and well worth a suggestion if you have a local museum that welcomes touring exhibitions.
 353. “The Magic Bookseller That Changed Everything” was the headline on a newspaper article about Cadabra Inc., kindly forwarded by Bill Seil. If you have never heard of the company, that’s because its name was changed. You don’t need to know anything about magic, or be a Sherlockian or Doylean, to have purchased something from the company <www.tinyurl.com/y2842d9j>.
 354. Kenneth Cameron, who featured Louisa Conan Doyle as a detective when she and her husband visited New York in 1894 in Winter at Death’s Hotel (Feb 13 #2), has written a series of books about Denton, an American veteran of the Civil War and now an expatriate author living in turn of the century London, who finds himself investigating murders. They’re not Sherlockian (except for passing mentions of Holmes), but they’re written with excellent style and well-drawn characters. The first two in the series now are available as trade-paperback reprints: The Frightened Man (New York: Felolony & Mayhem, 2018; 278 pp.) and The Bohemian Girl (2018, 344 pp.) (each \$14.95).
 355. Fans of “Sesame Street” have many reasons to admire the series, Sherlock Hemlock being only one of them. Greg Ruby found video of a tribute to the series during the Emmy Awards in 1982 <www.tinyurl.com/y3qwgzyk>; Sherlock Hemlock appears at 3:30-3:42 and at 5:06 in the 7-minute video.

356. "There are a handful of names in the pantheon of Sherlockians that are legendary," Scott Monty writes at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog, "Morley. Bell. Smith. Starrett. Baring-Gould. And Shaw." Scott and Burt Wolder offer an interesting interview with Jim Hawkins, who maintains an excellent web-site devoted to John Bennett Shaw, and you can listen to his stories at <www.tinyurl.com/yxupjpj3>.
357. Jeeves and the King of Clubs (2018) is Ben Schott's "homage to P. G. Wodehouse" <www.tinyurl.com/y3qwgzyk>; it turns out that the Junior Ganymede Club (like the Diogenes Club is so many modern Sherlockian pastiches) is an arm of the British intelligence service.
358. Arte Johnson died on July 3. He was actor on stage and television, and in 1968 joined the cast of "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In" eventually winning an Emmy for his performances as a German soldier Wolfgang ("verrrrry interesting") and as the dirty old man Tyrone F. Horneigh. He also played Fabian Holme ("a master private detective who solves crimes with the aid of elaborate disguises") on "Call Holme" (broadcast by NBC-TV in 1972 as a 30-minute pilot for a projected series that never was produced; the pilot is available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zvz88mRmY84>).
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359. Jul 19 #3 David Harnois continues to add to the list of dramatized readings of the Canon at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web- site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>, where you can listen to (or download) readings of the first nine stories, all nicely done. He also offers Alison Carter's remastered two-part audio recording of Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (which starred Jeremy Brett as Holmes and Edward Hardwicke as Watson) made by Lisa Woods and Linda Pritchard on Mar. 20, 1989.
360. Jennie Paton reported (but isn't going to purchase) a semi-permanent Holmes tattoo offered by inkbox <www.inkbox.com> at \$16.00. It would appear that "semi-permanent" means that it difficult to remove the tattoo, but there are ways to accelerate fading, explained at the web-site.
361. "The Unseen World of Charles Altamont Doyle" is the title of an exhibition at the Huntington Art Gallery in San Marino, Calif., running through Sept. 23 <www.huntington.org/unseen-doyle>. The exhibition offers sixteen drawings from the Huntington's collection, displaying the fantastical water-colors painted by Conan Doyle's father.
362. It's a generational thing: President Trump, asked about Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg, said that "Alfred E. Newman can't become president of the United States," and Buttigieg had to use Google to learn who MAD magazine's "What, me worry?" mascot was. Now MAD magazine has announced that it is ending its 67-year run of offering a satirical look at just about everything. Cartoonist Harvey Kurtzman edited the magazine in the 1950s, and as one of MAD's "usual gang of idiots" was responsible for Sherlock Holmes' first appearance in MAD, in a panel in the fourth issue, and as "Shermlock Shomes" in the seventh issue, both in 1953, and he has appeared many more times since then.
363. The second part of the Otto Penzler Collection of Mystery Fiction will be offered at Heritage Auctions <www.ha.com> on September 5, in sale #6212; there's some nice Sherlockian and Doylean material among the treasures.
364. The fourth issue of Shadows of the Gnomon (2019) offers a nice (and nicely illustrated) history of the Knights of the Gnomon; it's a 56-page booklet celebrating the 40th anniversary of the society, and is available by mail (\$13.00 postpaid) or as a PDF by e-mail, from amanuensis Marsha Pollak at <mlpollak@icloud.com>.
365. "Twelve-Object Pictures" (published in The Strand Magazine in Aug. 1912) showed the results of a challenge to "eminent black-and-white artists" to draw pictures incorporating a dozen objects chosen by the magazine; one of the objects was Sherlock Holmes, and you can see the drawings in the summer issue of Canadian Holmes (which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto). The issue also offers Cliff Goldfarb's "The Brigadier in Switzerland: Travels with Arthur and Napoleon" (with Cliff's amusing pastiche of Gerard); Canadian Holmes is a quarterly that costs \$30.00 a year (US or CA) by mail to the Bootmakers, 2045 Lakeshore Boulevard West #3303, Etobicoke, ON M8V 2Z6, Canada, or at <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
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366. Jul 19 #4 This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London is a colorful night image of Brixton's Electric Avenue in 1895. Electric Avenue, the first street market to be lit by electricity, is just off the Brixton Road, where Mrs. Oakshott was an egg and poultry supplier (in "The Blue Carbuncle"); details on ordering the cards will be available at the society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> later this year.
367. Freddie Jones died on July 9. He began his acting career on stage in the early 1960s, and went on to a long list of roles in films and on television; he appeared as Chester Cragwitch in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), Inspector Baynes in Granada's "Wisteria Lodge" (1988) and as the Pedlar in "The Last Vampyre" (1993). His son continues the Sherlockian tradition, Roger Johnson notes: Toby Jones played Culverton Smith in the BBC's "The Lying Detective" (2017).
368. The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps celebrating "the eclectic mix of annual customs and festivals that take place across the UK"; none of them seems to be Sherlockian, but they're well worth celebrating (and the designs are delightful): Burning the Clocks in Brighton, 'Obby 'Oss in Padstow, The World Gurning Championships in Egremont, Up Helly Aa in Lerwick, Cheese Rolling on Cooper's Hill in Brockworth, Halloween in Derry/Londonderry, Horn Dance in Abbots Bromley, and Bog Snorkelling in Llanwrtyd Wells.
369. "Heretic of the Week: Arthur Conan Doyle" was the attention-getting headline on a story in the Catholic Herald on June 20; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y22mk2fq>; it's part of a continuing series.
370. "Tell Me More" was a British 30-minute series broadcast by BBC-1; on July 9, 1977, the program had Nanette Newman's interviewing Sherlock Holmes Society of London president Lord Gore-Booth (as Sherlock Holmes) and Chris Bazlinton (as Sherlock Holmes' secretary); Nick Utechin spotted the 2-minute segment at <www.tinyurl.com/yxggobf7>.
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371. Jul 19 #5 Dexter Fletcher has been reported in talks to direct the third film in the Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" franchise, according to the Hollywood Reporter (July 11). Guy Richie was the director of the first two films, which grossed \$524 million and \$545 million. Dec. 22, 2021, still is the scheduled release date for the third film. Fletcher most recently directed the Elton John film "Rocketman" (2019).
372. John Kendrick Bangs was an American humorist whose books included A House-Boat on the Styx: Being Some Account of the Divers Doings of the Associated Shades (1895) and its sequel The Pursuit of the House-Boat: Being Some Further Account of the Divers Doings of the Associated Shades, Under the Leadership of Sherlock Holmes, Esq. (1897) in which the Associated Shades hire the world's greatest detective (at the time indeed deceased, according to Dr. Watson's literary agent) to assist them in recovering their hijacked house-boat. The novels have been reprinted as The Singular Problem of the Stygian House-Boat (Vancleave: Ramble House, 2007; 167 pp., \$30.00 cloth/\$14.00 paper) <www.ramblehouse.com>.
373. Also from Ramble House: Richard A. Lupoff's The Compleat Ova Hamlet (2009; 250 pp. \$30.00/\$18.00) is a collection of parodies Lupoff wrote using the pseudonym Ova Hamlet, and with an amusing Introduction from skeptical UFO researcher Philip J. Klass. Watson's featured in a parody of Philip José Farmer in "God of the Naked Unicorn" (first published in Aug. 1976 in Fantastic Science Fiction & Fantasy Stories).
374. And there's more: Gary Lovisi's The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (2007; 154 pp., \$30.00/\$18.00), More Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (2011, 150 pp., also \$30.00/\$18.00) and The Secret Adventures of Sherlock Holmes; Book Three (2016, 136 pp. \$35.00/\$18.00), offer collections of his pastiches, both reprints and new stories; some of them are longer versions (as written) that he had to edit down before of space limitations imposed when they were first published.

375. St. Hilda's College at Oxford University launched its "Crime Fiction Week-end" in 1994, and this year's weekend on Aug. 16-18 will include Nicholas Utechin speaking about Sherlock Holmes. The booking deadline is Aug. 5, and details can be found at <www.sthildas.ox.ac.uk/hildas-crime-2019>.
376. The Strongman Classic will be held in the Royal Albert Hall in London on June 6, 2020, bringing "the world's oldest sport" back where it all began, in 1901, when the Hall's weight-lifting show was judged by strongman legend Eugen Sandow and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The event is part of a tour by Giants Live <www.giants-live.com/theclassic>, and it will be filmed for broadcast by Channel 5 at Christmas in 2020.
377. Bob Dorian died on June 15. He was an actor, a magician, and a musician, and in 1984 he went to work on the American Movie Classics channel, where he became famous as the genial and enthusiast host for AMC's film broadcasts. He was born Robert Paul Vierengel (Bob Dorian was his professional name as an actor) and as Bob Vierengel he played Sherlock Holmes on nine Sherlockian radio broadcasts produced by Chris Steinbrunner and presented by the Priory Scholars of Fordham on WFUV-FM.
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378. Jul 19 #6 Laurie R. King happily reports that she has finished the first draft of the next Mary Russell mystery, which has the working title *Riviera Gold* and is tentatively scheduled for publication next June. Laurie has also reminded her readers that "all first drafts are crap," and is waiting for comments from her editor.
379. You may recall seeing that description of first drafts before. According to the Quote Investigator <www.quoteinvestigator.com/2015/09/20/draft>, it is Ernest Hemingway who's credited for saying "the first draft of anything is ****." Asterisked here to get this issue of my newsletter through the net nannies, but the Quote Investigator spells it out.
380. Save the date: The Parallel Case of Saint Louis has scheduled their next "Holmes in the Heartland" conference for July 24-26, 2020. More information will be available soon.
381. Undershaw is in the news again. Boris Johnson defeated Jeremy Hunt in the race to lead the Conservative party and become the next prime minister of Great Britain, but during the battle Surrey Live reported on June 26 that Hunt had lobbied on behalf of a businessman who later donated £10,000 to Hunt's leadership campaign. Hunt, the member of Parliament for South West Surrey, had supported upgrading Conan Doyle's former home from Grade II to Grade I during the long-running argument over redevelopment of Undershaw, but changed his mind and instead supported David Forbes-Nixon's plans to make the house part of the Stepping Stones School, and the DFN Charitable Trust then donated £10,000 to Hunt's campaign for the party leadership. A source "close to" Hunt told the paper that donations had no bearing on his decisions, while John Michael Gibson, one of the leaders of the campaign to upgrade protection of Undershaw, said that "It would appear with regard to Jeremy Hunt, to paraphrase George Orwell, all constituents are equal, but some are more equal than others."
382. There must be Sherlockians who have 3D printers, and there certainly are people who have 3D printers who print Sherlockiana, as Jennie Paton found on-line <www.yeggi.com/q/sherlock+holmes>.
383. Howard Ostrom has learned that plans are afoot for the next season of the BBC's "Sherlock" and apparently it will be set quite a few years after the recent season ended. They have already tested makeup for members of the cast, including Benedict Cumberbatch (shown here).
384. Well, not really, the image can be found, along with images of others in the cast, at a Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/y59as4mb> created by Sherlock Shippers; scroll down to "+5" to see all of the images.
385. "Elementary, my dear Watson," is a world-famous phrase that is discussed in detail at the Quote Investigator web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yjee9zej>. What's interesting is that "Elementary, my dear Watson" has been found in print (1901) before the first appearance of "Elementary, my dear Watson" (1909). But Sherlock Holmes is first known to have spoken the phrase in the film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929).
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386. Jul 19 #7 Just in time for Christmas: the new film "Cats" is scheduled for release on Dec. 20, starring Judi Dench (Old Deuteronomy) and Taylor Swift (Bombalurina), and (far more important for Sherlockians) Idris Elba (Macavity: The Mystery Cat) and Ian McKellen (Gus: The Theatre Cat). The film based on the Andrew Lloyd Webber 1981 musical, which was based on T. S. Eliot's poetic *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* (1939). For those who are not familiar with the poems or the musical, Macavity is Eliot's tribute to Moriarty. Eliot also included an amusing Canonical allusion in the poem about Gus, but it was omitted from the musical and is unlikely to be in the film. The official trailer for the film can be seen at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=gq50F-IDXDc>.
387. Intrada <www.intrada.com> has issued a newly remastered 3-CD set with the music from the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), with some interesting added features (\$29.95).
388. The Bimetallic Question (the Sherlockian society in Montréal) has issued a new lapel pin that celebrates their 40th anniversary (it matches their magnifying-glass logo <www.bimetallicquestion.org>; US\$10.00 postpaid from The Bimetallic Question, P.O. Box 232, Westmount Station, Westmount, Quebec H3Z 2T2, Canada. Checks or money orders preferred; cash can be sent at your own risk.
389. One does hear of Sherlock everywhere: Nick Utechin has forwarded British comic Andy Zaltsman's comment on the Cricket World Cup Final at Lord's on July 14: "As Sherlock Holmes famously said, 'When you have eliminated the logical, whatever remains, however inexplicable, must be the laws and regulations of cricket, and/or the last hour of the 2019 World Cup Final.' If you want to read all about it, go to <www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/4007967>.
390. Production has started in London on the new film "Enola Holmes" (based on the six-book series written by Nancy Springer (2006-2010) about the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock; Millie Bobby Brown stars as Enola, with Henry Cavill as Sherlock and Helena Bonham Carter as their mother. Cavill has played Superman in the DC Extended Universe franchise (2013-2017) and Napoleon Solo in "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." (2015).
391. "America Unearthed" (a one-hour series hosted by Scott Wolter and broadcast by the Travel channel): "The Ripper Unmasked" (June 18) was inspired by Daniel and Eugene Friedman's *The Strange Case of Dr. Doyle* (Apr 15 #2); Wolter interviews the Friedmans, and reaches a highly circumstantial conclusion that Conan Doyle was Jack the Ripper. Watch for a repeat on the Travel channel and at the channel's web-site.
392. The Easton Press is reported to be planning to publish a new Sherlockian collection of the four long stories (possibly later this year), with five full-color illustrations by Dennis Lyall, whose original artwork (oil-on-linen-canvas) is available from the artist. Lyall has been an illustrator for decades, and has designed 43 stamps for the U.S. Postal Service; his web-site is at <www.lyallart.com>, and you can request information about the Sherlockian artwork (a frontispiece portrait of Conan Doyle, and one illustration for each story) from him at <lyallart@aol.com>.
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393. Jul 19 #8 "Look Alive!" is the title of this year's production by the Cambridge University Footlights Dramatic Club; the Footlights were founded in 1883, and launched the careers of Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Emma Thompson, John Cleese, and many others. According to a review in the (Cambridge) *Varsity* (June 12) <www.varsity.co.uk/theatre/17675>, one of the sketches includes an "inquisitive Sherlock Holmes." The Footlights will be on tour in the U.S. in September, in San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston; dates and times are available at <www.tinyurl.com/yyqes2f3>.

394. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at the Lake George Dinner Theatre in Lake George, N.Y. through Aug. 31; their web-site's at <www.laketheatreproductions.com>. It also will be performed at the Delaware Theatre Company in Wilmington, Del., Sept. 11-29; web-site at <www.delawaretheatre.org>.
 395. "Sherlock and Cinders" (a musical by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey) will be performed at Selby Abbey in Selby, Yorks., Aug. 5-9; their website's at <www.selbyabbey.org.uk>.
 396. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Historic Zodiac Playhouse in Florence, Ala., Aug. 9-18; their web-site is at <www.historiczodiacplayhouse.com>.
 397. Alexander Park's new play "Haslop & Holmes: Art of the Steal" will be performed at the Ti-Ahwaga Performing Arts Center in Owego, N.Y., Aug. 16-18 <www.tiahwaga.com>; Conan Watson Haslop and Irene Holmes vs. the famous thief Lupin.
 398. "Sherlock Holmes: The Strange Case of Alice Faulkner" will be performed as a staged reading at the CoRK Arts District in Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 22-24 <www.tinyurl.com/yxb8r8dm>; it's the Mercury Theatre on the Air version from 1938.
 399. William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Angelo Civic Theater in San Angelo, Texas, Sept. 27-Oct. 6 <www.angelotheater.com>.
 400. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Canyon Theatre in Newhall, Calif., Sept. 27-Nov. 3 <www.canyontheatre.org>. Also at the Little Theatre of Tuscarawas County in New Philadelphia, Ohio, Oct. 4-20 <www.thenewlittletheatreonline.org>; the Topeka Civic Theatre in Topeka, Kans., Jan. 17-Feb. 9, 2020; and the Matsqui Centennial Theatre in Abbotsford, B.C., May 15-23 <www.gallery7theatre.com>.
 401. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at the Art Center Theatre in Hernando, Fla., Nov. 1-17; web-site at <www.artcenterofcitruscounty.org>. Also at the Kirkwood Community Center in Kirkwood, Mo., Nov. 1-10 <www.ktg-onstage.org>; and at the Manoa Valley Theatre in Honolulu, Hawaii, May 14-31 <www.manoavalleytheatre.com>.
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402. Aug 19 #1 Registration is now open for the Baker Street Irregulars' BSI Archive Conference on Nov. 8-10 in Bloomington, Ind.; everyone is welcome to attend, and the formal announcement and registration information are available on-line at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/event>. The next BSI conference will be on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., on July 17-19, 2020.
 403. Maggie Schpak has kindly hand-crafted spectacular Sherlockian jewelry for many years for the raffle that benefits the Dr. John H. Watson Fund during the birthday festivities in New York, has a day job designing prop jewelry for movie and television studios. Maggie keeps a very low public profile, but she will be making a rare appearance to speak about "Alien Adornment: 50 Years of Star Trek Jewelry" at an "Arts at the Armory" event in Somerville, Mass., near Boston, on Sept. 22 <www.startrek.artisansasylum.com>.
 404. When and where was the first computer-to-computer message sent? What was the message? Hint: it was not "Mr. Watson -- come here -- I want to see you."
 405. Lola Montez is on stage once again, in a one-woman entertainment written by Richard Byrne that premiered in Washington last month, with Mary Murphy as the notorious performer who has been suggested (by some Sherlockians, at any rate) as one of the possible inspirations for Irene Adler. Details on the play can be found at <www.richardbyrneplays.com/lola-montez>, and a review of the premiere is available at <www.tinyurl.com/y3t4x2lu>.
 406. "Gillette Castle Needs Your Help," was a recent post by Scott Monty at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/y3czco2z>.
 407. A Novel Journal: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (San Diego: Canterbury Classics, 2015; 160 pp., \$10.94) is an imaginative concept, part of a series that offers a chance to "write between the lines of your favorite authors." The lines of the journal are what Conan Doyle wrote ("in teeny, tiny text").
 408. Tim Dedopulos' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE COLLECTION: THE LOST CASES (New York: Sterling/ Metro, 2015; 224 pp., \$11.23) presents "over 140 cerebral challenges," imaginative, logical, and attractively illustrated.
 409. "Do Detectives Think?" (1927), a two-reel film produced by Hal Roach, featured Stan Laurel as Ferdinand Finkleberry (the world's second worst detective) and Oliver Hardy as Sherlock Pinkham, (the worst); Jennie Paton found the film at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y668cvm4>.
 410. Mattias Boström has noted that Susanne Buck's Mörder, Mode, Mitgiftjäger will be published by Jonas Verlag in October (216 pp., €20.00). It's all in German (according to the author, if the book were in English the title would be Fashion, Felons, Fortune-Hunters), and it's about high society in the 1920s; the fortune-hunters, it should be noted, included the "Marrying Mdivanis" (one of whom was Nina, who married Denis Conan Doyle).
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411. Aug 19 #2 "It isn't every day you run into someone who crashed an invitation-only event 45 years ago," Scott Monty suggests. "When you add to the mix that the event was all-male and the interloper was a female —well, now we have the beginning of a good story." The event was a meeting of a Sherlockian society, and it's a good story indeed; you can listen to an interview with the interloper at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yxgdrvqu5>.
 412. When and where was the first computer-to-computer message sent? What was the message? Oct. 29, 1969, from a computer at UCLA to a computer at SRI. You'll find the rest of the story in an article about Leonard Kleinrock at <www.magazine.ucla.edu/depts/forward-thinker/making-magic>.
 413. Hal Prince died on July 31. He had a long career as a producer and director, beginning with "Pajama Game" in 1954, and continued with a long list of Broadway successes, including directing the musical "Baker Street" in 1964. He also purchased the rights to James Goldman's play "They Might Be Giants" and was the producer for its brief run in London in 1961; he then considered producing the play in New York (with George C. Scott and Colleen Dewhurst, and with Mike Nichols as the director), but decided that it couldn't be done properly. Prince kept the screen rights to the script, and when they were purchased by Universal for the 1971 film with Scott and Joanne Woodward, Prince recovered all of his losses from the London stage production ("probably the only time in my life that will happen," he wrote in his 1974 memoirs Contradictions: Notes on Twenty-Six Years in the Theatre).
 414. Howard Ostrom has reported that production is underway on "Sherlock Holmes in Russia" (a new television series that stars Maxim Matveev as Holmes); you can read all about it (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/yy44lqyw>.
 415. "Sesame Street" will be the first television series to receive a Kennedy Center Honor; the series was broadcast by PBS-TV for many years, and now airs on HBO; the honors will be awarded on Dec. 8, and broadcast by CBS-TV on Dec. 15, and it's possible, though unlikely, that Sherlock Hemlock will be on hand for the festivities.
 416. Adam Nightingale's Masters of Crime: fiction's Finest Villains and Their Real-Life Inspirations (Stroud: History Press, 2011; 101 pp.) is out-of-print on paper, but available as an e-book (£6.99); the contents include a chapter about Conan Doyle and Moriarty and Wild and Worth, and another devoted to Hornung and Raffles and Tennington and Ives and Wilde.
 417. "Elementary" has now ended its seven-season run on CBS-TV, with Jonny Lee Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as Watson in 154 one-hour programs, setting a record for playing the roles together longer than anyone other than Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, who appeared together in more films

and radio programs, but for fewer hours, since their radio programs ran for only 30 minutes. No spoilers here, but TV Insider ran an interview with show-runner Rob Doherty on Aug. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/y56t7lmv> in which he gave his reasons for how he did (or didn't) wrap things up. There's another interesting interview with Doherty at TV Line <www.tinyurl.com/y3lv4x3r>.

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418. Aug 19 #3 The nominations for Mystery Readers International's Macavity Awards include Margalit Fox's Conan Doyle for the Defense and Leslie S. Klinger's Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s (for best nonfiction), and Laurie R. King's Island of the Mad (Sue Feder memorial award for best historical mystery). The winners will be announced at Bouchercon in Dallas on Oct. 21.
419. The August issue of the Beacon Society offers the latest news of the society's awards, prizes, and on-going efforts to encourage introducing young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories. You can request a copy by e-mail from Steve Mason <mason.steve@epa.com>.
420. David Stevens died on July 31. He joined the staff of Playboy magazine in 1966 as an assistant editor, and (according to one of his obituaries) said that he "never worked another day in his life." He retired from the magazine in 2004 as senior editor for modern living, and throughout his career there he was their resident Sherlockian, making sure that the Great Detective was mentioned often in the magazine.
421. Jennie Paton spotted Russell Stutler's striking birds-eye view of 221 Baker Street under "strange maps" at Big Think's web-site; reported before (Jul 10 #6), but it's still worth a look <www.tinyurl.com/yxa8ezat>.
422. "Barnes & Noble has been sliding toward oblivion for years," according to a recent article in the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/yye8mqrn>, kindly forwarded by Bill Seil. But rescue is at hand: the rescuer is Waterstones, a British company that owns a chain of successful bookstores in the U.K. and plans to return Barnes & Noble to profitability.
423. Further to the report (Mar 19 #1) that "Sherlock Holmes 3" (the next film in the Robert Downey Jr. franchise) will take place in the Old West, the San Jose Mercury-News has explained why: the film has qualified for California's tax-credit production incentive, and will receive about \$21 million in state tax credits in return for spending close to \$107 million on below-the-line, middle-class production job wages and payments to in-state vendors in California.
424. "'That's the trouble with this business,' said Sherlockian scholar Vincent Starrett deprecatingly, when I reminded him of this bit of bad taste, 'the wrong people get into it.'" That's from Norman Donaldson's essay "A Freeman Postscript" in The Mystery & Detection Annual (1972), reporting on his visit with Starrett in 1964, when they discussed R. Austin Freeman's work. books.
425. And just what was "this bit of bad taste?" Donaldson wondered how closely it might be legitimate to carry a literary analysis. "Was I by any chance becoming guilty of the same deplorable excesses as some over-enthusiastic Sherlockians, who build too ponderous a superstructure of exegesis on too flimsy a foundation? Like the dentist who 'proved' that Holmes suffered from pyorrhea?" Donaldson was referring to Charles S. Goodman, whose essay on "The Dental Holmes" was published in 1944 Edgar W. Smith's anthology Profile by Gaslight.
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426. Aug 19 #4 An interesting item was sold at auction this month at Dominic Winter Auctioneers at Cirencester: the original cover design for the May 1912 issue of The Strand Magazine, pen and ink on paper, initialed and dated, and advertising Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" (which was being serialized in the magazine) <www.tinyurl.com/y4n8zk5b>. Estimated at £100-£150, it sold for £1,450 (plus buyer's premium and VAT).
427. Shane Rimmer died on Mar. 29. He began his entertainment career as a cabaret singer and went on to act on film and television, also working as a voice artist and script writer. He played Lysander Stark in the television "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) and Jefferson Hope in the BBC Radio 4 broadcast of "A Study in Scarlet" (1989).
428. There's more news about Enola Holmes: Serena Blasco has adapted the first two of Nancy Springer's novels (The Case of the Missing Marquess and The Case of the Left-Handed Lady) as graphic novels for IDW Publishing (each 64 pp., \$14.99); the adaptations and artwork are excellent, and The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets is scheduled for next year, nicely timed for the release of the movie starring Millie Bobby Brown. There was a well-illustrated interview with the artist at the School Library Journal web-site on Oct. 11, 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/yyvw46ql>. Blasco's graphic novels for all six of Springer's books have been published in France by Jungle Editions.
429. When in Oklahoma: Sherlock Homes Inc. in Henryetta proclaims "19 years of amazing prices for nice mobile homes!" and uses a Sherlockian silhouette in their advertising <www.tinyurl.com/yyykc6rm>, spotted by Jennie Paton.
430. Steve Mason reports that the Crew of the Barque Lone Star plan to publish a new anthology of limericks based on Sherlock Holmes and the Canon. Submissions are welcome from anyone, the deadline is Aug. 31, and details are available from Steve at <mason.steve@epa.gov>.
431. Bearded Sherlockians may wish to investigate the Sherlock products (beard balm, beard oil, and beard co-wash) offered by the Honest Ape Beard Co. <www.honestapebeardco.com>.
432. "Sherlock Holmes & Digital Worlds" is the title of a study that will document the history of Sherlockian video games from around the world. Mimi Okabe, a member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, would like to hear from anyone who would like to contribute information that will be available in an on-line data-base; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yy2lxlow>.
433. This month's conference in Minneapolis ("Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences"), sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, the University of Minnesota, and the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, went extremely well, and was the occasion for the publication of The Best of Friends; it is a selection of essays and articles from past issues of the Friends' newsletter, edited by Ray Riethmeier, Julie McKuras, Richard Sveum, and Phillip Bergem, with additional comments by the authors of the essays and articles. The 224-page book costs \$28.00 postpaid, from Phil Bergem (3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304) (checks should be payable to the Norwegian Explorers).
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434. Aug 19 #5 Kelvin I. Jones, a prolific author of Sherlockian articles and books in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, is preparing to publish The Sherlock Holmes Ultimate Smoking Companion, an up-dated and expanded edition of his earlier book about Holmes' affair with tobacco, and is welcoming submissions from any Sherlockian (or Holmesian) of a new story that has references to smoking, or a new article about smoking Canonical smoking (of tobacco or anything else). His deadline is Sept. 30, and details are available from him at <microsoft.221@yahoo.com>.
435. Richard M. Caplan ("Dr. Jackson") died on Aug. 20. He had a longer career teaching dermatology at the University of Iowa, also serving as associate dean for continuing medical education. Dick was a prolific contributor to both medical and Sherlockian literature, and was the founder of the Young Stamfords of Iowa City. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1989.
436. Jennie Paton reports a wide variety of Sherlockian designs available from Spoonflower <www.spoonflower.com> as fabric and as wallpaper.
437. Alexander Orlov has reported from Russia that Anna Rossonova, a young woman from Chelyabinsk, is hard at work on creating a "knitted detective story" that will feature Holmes and Watson; you can see her attractive work at <www.tinyurl.com/y2f5k9hl>.

438. Dante Torrese has kindly forwarded a report from Coin World Weekly (Aug. 19) about a nice discovery at Ballarat, where prospectors still are prospecting, sometimes quite successfully: a 4.4-pound gold nugget was found recently by a retiree who searches gold fields as a spare-time hobby, and offers of more than \$160,000 have already been made for the "You Wouldn't Believe It" nugget.
439. The Panama City News Herald posted a story and a 15-minute audio interview with Nancy Springer on Aug. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/y32g9tl9>; the story noted that Springer posted a rhetorical question on her Facebook page about the casting of Henry Cavill as Holmes: "Hottest Sherlock ever?"
440. THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CASE BOOK (London: Carlton/Sevenoaks, 2018; 224 pp., \$17.23) is a nicely-illustrated collection of ten solve-it-yourself mysteries (complete with solutions at the back of the book). The artwork is credited to Shutterstock <www.shutterstock.com>, a web-site that offers a wide range of attractive (and royalty-free) images, Sherlockian and otherwise.
441. The Guardian reported on Aug. 19 that Greene King, a 220-year-old pub and beer company, is to be sold for £2.7 billion to the CKA Group, a massive conglomerate based in Hong Kong <www.tinyurl.com/y56un9b5>. Greene King was founded by Benjamin Greene, the great-grand-grandfather of author Graham Greene (who wrote an introduction for the Murray/Cape edition of *The Sign of Four* in 1974) and his brother Hugh Greene (who was director-general of the BBC and the editor of the "Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" series of books), and is of additional interest to Sherlockians because it owned The Sherlock Holmes pub in Northumberland Street.
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442. Aug 19 #6 The usual theatrical news: David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé" has been scheduled at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Sept. 19-Dec. 21; web-site's at <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.
443. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Kress Theatre in Alexandria, La., Sept. 26 to Oct. 6 <www.cpptheatre.com>; and the Surflight Theatre in Beach Haven, N.J., Oct. 2-6 <www.surflight.org>.
444. Also at the Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre in Clearfield, Pa., Oct. 10-19 <www.clearfieldarts.org>; at the Chickasaw Civic Theatre in Mobile, Ala., Oct. 11-20 <www.cctshows.com>; and at the Plaza Theatre in Wharton, Tex., Oct. 18-27 <www.whartonplazatheatre.org>.
445. Terry McCabe's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is upcoming at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Sep. 27-Nov. 10 <www.citylit.org>.
446. The musical "Sherlock Holmes and the East Wind" is due at the Arizona Rose Theatre in Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 12-27 <www.arizonarosetheatre.com>.
447. "Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) will be performed at the Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wis., on Oct. 17-20 <www.lps.wels.net>.
448. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at Stage 212 in La Salle, Ind., Nov. 8-17 <www.stage212.org>.
449. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" (by Michael Menendian and John Weagly) will be performed at the Paola Community Center in Paola, Kan., Nov. 8-9 <www.cornerstoneperformingarts.com>.
450. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Newport Theatre Arts Center in Newport Beach, Calif., Nov.15-Dec. 15 <www.ntaonline.com>.
451. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the James J. Hill House in St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 6-20 <www.theatrex.org>.
452. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Studio 120 at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Jan. 9-26 <www.tamparep.org>.
453. Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (four one-act plays) will be performed at Caldwell Community College in Lenoir, N.C., on Feb. 13-15 <www.broyhillcenter.com>.
454. It's not possible to forecast everything in a monthly newsletter; if you would like more frequent news of theatrical events, Howard Ostrom offers exactly that at Twitter <[www.twitter.com/HowardOstrom](https://twitter.com/HowardOstrom)>.
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455. Sep 19 #1 The UCLA Film and Television Archive's collaborative world-wide search for missing or deteriorating Sherlockian films (Jan 19 #3) now is formally underway, and details are available at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yy96y7fu>.
456. Rebecca Romney will be the speaker at next year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture at 2:00 pm on Apr. 20 at the Toronto Reference Library (her topic will be "Using Sherlock Holmes to Expand What Book Collecting Can Be"); no charge for admission, the public is welcome to attend, and detailed information is available at <www.acdfriends.org/events.html>. There's also a save-the-date announcement for the Bootmakers of Toronto's next conference (on Sept. 24-26, 2021).
457. Footprints of London <www.footprintsoflondon.com> offers a wide variety of walks in London, among them "Sherlock Holmes Goes East" on Oct. 7 and 31, and "Sherlock Holmes—The Return" on Oct. 3.
458. Leonard Nimoy first played Sherlock Holmes in "The Interior Motive" (a 15-minute program produced by Kentucky Educational Television in 1975); it's now available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_rKfRpQZEE> (kindly reported by Jennie Paton).
459. Janis Gayer Robinson notes an interesting web-site with all seven seasons of "Elementary" <www.tinyurl.com/y39kbny2>. There's a search engine, in case you want to search for other series (they have the Jeremy Brett and Benedict Cumberbatch series, and many non-Sherlockian series).
460. Admirers of Sherlock Hemlock will enjoy a YouTube connection to all eleven of the segments of his appearances on "Sesame Street" (spotted by Jennie Paton) <www.tinyurl.com/y2s45z48>.
461. The film isn't Sherlockian, but it does feature Charlie McCarthy wearing a deerstalker: Ann Marlowe has reported "Two Boobs in a Balloon" (1935), a 10-minute short that's the first film in a collection available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yx9654fu>.
462. The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem have found a nice way to use modern technology to publicize the society and to attract new members: a 9-minute video available at YouTube <[www.yout.be/X9T294hDpDA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9T294hDpDA)>.
463. Kelvin I. Jones has been pursuing Sherlockian scholarship since the 1960s, and his Sherlock Holmes' 'The Art of Detection' (Liskeard: Cunning Crime Books, 2019; 334 pp., £12.14) offers an interesting collection of ten of the many monographs written by Holmes. Those outside the U.K. can buy the book for \$16.50 (with free shipping) from the Book Depository, which continues to be a good source for in-print British books; their web-site is at <www.bookdepository.com>. Those are the trade paperbacks; Kelvin has a few copies of the hardback version, available from him without charge except for £6.00 postage <mycroft.221@yahoo.com> (you'll be able to pay via PayPal).
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464. Sep 19 #2 "Conan Doyle and London" is the title of a one-day symposium scheduled for Nov. 15 at the School of Advanced Study at the Institute of English Studies in London <www.tinyurl.com/y57xc3gq>. It's open to the public, and is the first event associated with The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle, planned for publication by the University of Edinburgh Press.
465. Frank A. Hoffmann ("Altamont") died on June 11. Frank had a long academic career teaching both folklore and cinema at Buffalo State College, where he founded An Irish Secret Society at Buffalo in 1976. He also worked for a time for the Kinsey Institute in Bloomington, Ind. (and in 1985 contributed

- an article to The Baker Street Journal on “The Victorian Sexual Subculture: Some Notes and a Speculation”), and was happy to bring his 16mm Sherlockian films to show at meeting of the Illustrious Clients. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.
466. Sarah Obermuller-Bennett’s *A Study in Postcards* (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 2019; 38 pp., £6.00/€13.00/\$14.00) provides a colorful look at “Sherlock Holmes in the Golden Age of the Picture Postcard” (which ended in 1918, when the cost of postage doubled, from a halfpenny to one penny); there was a wide variety of cards (advertising, theatrical, scenic, and the traditional miscellaneous), and it’s especially interesting to see the results of her research on cards that were accidentally Sherlockian, with connections discovered only with a magnifying glass. Available at the Society’s web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org/uk>.
467. One of the postcards shown in the book is a delightfully Sherlockian cat drawn by the prolific artist Louis Wain, who has an interesting entry at Wikipedia. Variety reported on July 23 <www.tinyurl.com/yxo23mx> on a new film that will star Benedict Cumberbatch as Wain; production is under way, and a Google search for [cumberbatch wain] will bring up first-look images of Cumberbatch as Wain.
468. Félix J. Palma’s *The Map of Chaos* (New York: Atria, 2015; 574 pp., \$27.00) is the third volume in a trilogy that involves time travel, alternate universes, steampunk, and both real and imagined characters; Conan Doyle appears in this volume, along with H. G. Wells, in a battle to avoid the end of everything and everyone.
469. Jennie Paton spotted what Hansa Toys calls an “adorable miniature Sherlock Holmes Mohair Bear in quality gift box with trademark deerstalker hat, magnifying glass, and pipe,” now available from Hanleys in London (£60.00) <www.tinyurl.com/yxq6tsok>; it’s
470. 14cm tall, which may or may not count as miniature, but at least it’s cuddly.
471. Richard Booth died on Aug. 20. He was widely regarded as the most colorful book dealer in Britain, and for that matter in the world, having invented Hay-on-Wye as a destination for collectors. He crowned himself as king of the town, with Richard the Bookheart as his title, and was said to have appointed a horse as prime minister, and his obituary in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/y5hq8smr> is well worth reading.
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472. Sep 19 #3 Michael Sims’ *Frankenstein Dreams* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2017; 387 pp., \$22.00) offers “a connoisseur’s collection of Victorian science fiction” (and his selections include Conan Doyle’s “The Horror of the Heights”); it’s part of a series *Dracula’s Guest* (vampire stories), *The Dead Witness* (detective stories, with “The Science of Deduction”), and *The Phantom Coach* (ghost stories, with “The Captain of the Pole-Star”).
473. Sims notes in his introduction to “The Horror of the Heights” that Harold Ross (co-founder and editor-in-chief of *The New Yorker*) had “whimsically instructed his writers to be specific in identifying allusions by reminding them that only two figures were known to everyone in Western culture at that time . . . Harry Houdini and Sherlock Holmes.” That’s from James Thurber’s “The Years with Ross” in the *Atlantic Monthly* (Dec. 1957): “He once said that only two names were familiar to every reader in the civilized world: Houdini and Sherlock Holmes.”
474. The next “Holmes in the Heartland” conference in St. Louis, Mo. on July 24-26, 2020, will include Curtis Armstrong as the keynote speaker; registration will open in October, and more information is available from Rob Nunn at <robertanunn@gmail.com>.
475. The U.S. Postal Service has a rule against issuing postage stamps showing people while they’re still alive, but other countries, including Britain, have no such rule (the monarch, after all, appears on all of Britain’s stamps). Now the Royal Mail has issued a set of twelve stamps honoring Elton John, who was executive producer and songwriter for the film “*Sherlock Gnomes*” (2018), and one of the stamps shows an album-cover portrait Elton John himself. You can see all of the stamps (and collectible products) at <www.royalmail.com/eltonjohn>. And yes, the U.S. has occasionally (and accidentally) broken its rule; you can ask your neighborhood philatelist about this.
476. “A fastidiously clean scent, with a dash of pipe and cigarette tobacco,” is only part of the description of the Sherlock Holmes Perfume Oil sold by the Black Phoenix Alchemy Lab <www.tinyurl.com/y3jrul4h>. And there is more: “Faintly beneath, you catch the fragrance of a smear of greasepaint, a stray horsehair, and a whisper of Moroccan leather and rosin.”
477. Paul Darrow died on June 3. He had a wide-ranging career acting in Britain, on stage, screen, radio, and television, plus voice work on computer games and audiobooks. Darrow played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in “*Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Link*” on stage and on television in 1992.
478. The television series “*Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s The Lost World*” featured Peter McCauley as Challenger and an assortment of underdressed “babes of the lost world” that fans likely found far more interesting than the dinosaurs; it ran for three seasons (1999-2002), and was released on DVDs, and is available at no charge for those who subscribe to Amazon Prime. There’s also the Oct. 2000 issue of *Femmes Fatales Magazine*, available at eBay and Amazon, with a cover story on Jennifer O’Dell; the artwork on the DVD set and the magazine helps explain why the series ran for three seasons.
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479. Sep 19 #4 More news from Great Britain: Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his partner Carrie Symonds have adopted a Jack Russell puppy that was abandoned by a Welsh farmer and rescued by Friends of the Animals Wales. When asked earlier about the possibility that a dog might join the couple’s cat Larry, Johnson said merely that “There is a dog. The dog is like the giant rat of Sumatra, it is a creature for whom the world is not quite ready.” The puppy has been named Dilyn, and the BBC has posted video <www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-49548946> of his arrival at Johnson’s flat in Downing Street.
480. Laurance Donnelly will deliver this year’s Richard Lancelyn Green lecture to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London at the National Liberal Club on Oct. 17, on “The Applications of Geology to Police and Law Enforcement”; details at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/forensic-geology>.
481. Jennie Paton has reported a new addition to the list of Sherlockian comic books: the Dec. 1955 issue of *Marmaduke Mouse*, published by Quality Comics; the issue (#56) shows Marmaduke in Sherlockian costume on the cover, but not inside the comic book, which has been scanned and is available on-line at the Comic Book Plus web-site <www.comicbookplus.com/?dliid=19305>.
482. Claire O’Dell’s *The Hound of Justice* (New York: Harper Voyager, 2019; 326 pp., \$15.99) is a sequel to her *A Study in Honor* (Jun 18 #6); the protagonists are Dr. Jane Watson and covert agent Sara Holmes, both black LGBT women, and in this book Watson is hard at work trying to find and assist Holmes in a battle against a dire threat to their country after the next Civil War.
483. Just in time for Christmas: Jennie Paton spotted an imaginative cherry-red sweatshirt with an attractive Sherlockian wreath, offered from Australia by Fruugo (AU\$41.95) <www.tinyurl.com/y6bjya46>.
484. For the gamers (in case there are any out there): J. Robert King’s “*Baker Street Irregulars*” <www.tinyurl.com/y25wuu4u> is a “setting chapter” for Lester Smith’s *D6xD6 RPG* <www.d6xd6.com>. An RPG could be a rocket-propelled grenade, but this one’s a role-playing game (apparently similar to “*Dungeons and Dragons*”).
485. The 60th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze will be held on Oct. 12 at the Hawthorne Race Course. You can request a registration form for the event from Philip Cunningham (9412 South Springfield Avenue, Evergreen Park, IL 60805) <pic121@comcast.net>.
486. Terrance Dicks died on Aug. 29. He was best known for his work as editor and writer on the BBC “*Doctor Who*” series beginning in 1986, and went on to write spin-off novels as well as plays, and children’s books that included ten titles in his Baker Street Irregulars series (1978-1987). He novelized

Doctor Who and the Talons of Weng-Chiang (the program and book were full of Canonical allusions), had a cameo appearance by Conan Doyle in Doctor Who: Revenge of the Judoon (2008), and was script editor for the Tom Baker television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982).

487. Sep 19 #5 "Trafalgar Square Lions Could Give You Sepsis," the Daily Telegraph warned on Aug. 23, reporting that experts had swabbed 24 statues in 13 European cities and found huge levels of bacteria. The statue of Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street, where tourists often touch the statue's feet, was among those tested, and had "a large presence of staphylococcus," which can lead to infections that include sepsis, conjunctivitis, cystitis, and endocarditis."
488. "A Life in Movies" is the title of an interesting section of the on-line Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia maintained by Alexis Barquin; you can see a delightful selection of home movies and newsreel footage of Conan Doyle and his family <www.tinyurl.com/y4e8o3uz>.
489. It can be interesting when people with special knowledge write about Sherlockian films: David Salazar, editor-in-chief the web-site Opera Wire, has discussed the way that opera was used in the Robert Downey Jr. film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (2011) <www.tinyurl.com/y5hy2fm7>.
490. Neil Gaiman's Mr. Hero—The Newmatic Man is a comic-book series scripted by James Vance "based on a concept created by Neil Gaiman," and published by Tekno-Comics. Issue #10 (early Dec. 1995) is titled "The Hand of the Baskervilles" and shows Mr. Hero (the Ratiocinator) in Sherlockian costume. The 18-issue series is collected in two volumes published by Papercutz in 2016 and 2017; Ted Slampyak's artwork is striking, and it's an impressive series.
491. Internet search engines occasionally turn up stories about young men and women having been named "Sherlock Holmes Athlete of the Week". The award was created in 2017, and is sponsored by the Sherlock Holmes Pubs in Edmonton, Alberta <www.thesherlockpubs.com/athlete-of-the-week>.
492. The Dundee Courier reported on Aug. 22 that work has begun on a £100 million residential development on the site of the Sunnyside Royal Hospital near Montrose. The hospital building will be converted into 10 townhouses and 24 apartments, and there will be a total of 450 homes on the 64 acres of the hospital grounds. Founded in 1781 as the Montrose Lunatic Asylum, the hospital received its royal charter in 1810, and its patients included Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle.
493. Big Chief Studios continues to advertise authorized (and expensive) figures and dioramas from the "Sherlock" television series, with special offers on "The Abominable Bride" material <www.tinyurl.com/y57lafbx>.
494. The web-site "We Got This Covered" reported on Aug. 7 that "sources" have said that "The Great Mouse Detective" is among the live-action remakes being planned by Disney. "Details are still largely unknown," and the story has not been confirmed by anyone else.
495. Steve Emecz reports that MX Publishing will live stream from Undershaw in Hindhead, Surrey, on Oct. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/y4d5lcqk>, presenting Orlando Pearson's short play "A Scandal in Nova Alba", a performance by deductionist Ben Cardall, author interviews, and a virtual tour of Undershaw.
496. Sep 19 #6 It's always interesting to make accidental discoveries: Greg Darak found a copy of the Oct. 1900 issue of McClure's Magazine, with Conan Doyle's article "Some Lessons of the War" (about the Boer War), and observed that the issue also contained John Watson's article on "The Life of the Master". Alas, the article's author, the Rev. John Watson, D.D., had written about Jesus, rather than the Great Detective.
497. And just in time for Halloween: Jennie Paton discovered an attractive costume available from La Casa Di in Italy <www.tinyurl.com/yyoochnw>, priced at €47.99 (no charge for shipping). There's another one offered by Pink Queen in Houston <www.tinyurl.com/y5syscqy> at \$55.99.
498. Duncan Lamont died on July 2. He began his musical career at the age of seven, but soon switched to the saxophone and became a prolific songwriter, composer, arranger, and bandleader; his obituaries credit him for "The Sherlock Holmes Suite" created in collaboration with Spike Milligan. Does anyone know anything about Lamont's "Sherlock Holmes Suite"? Alan Barnes used the same title for a different jazz album issued in 2003.
499. David E. Fessenden's The Case of the Exploding Speakeasy (Raleigh: Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas, 2013; 159 pp., \$13.95) has Tom Watson, son of Dr. Watson, working with little success as a newspaper reporter in Philadelphia in the 1920s; his father, who has been taking care of an ageing Mycroft after Sherlock Holmes' death, also dies, and Mycroft turns up in Philadelphia, where he happily helps Tom solve a mystery triggered by the destruction of a mob-owned saloon.
500. The campaign to raise money to repair St. Mary's Church in Ingleton, where the Rev. Thomas Dod Sherlock had been vicar, and where a nearby areas was called the Holmes (Apr 18 #2) continues. Jennie Paton has reported an interesting 11-minute Crowdfunder video in which Chris Leeming explains the local connections to Conan Doyle (who married Louise Hawkins in a nearby church in 1885) <www.tinyurl.com/yxoaxdmx>.
501. According to Gemma Sherlock (on Cheshire Live) <www.tinyurl.com/y5cvddde>, filming has started in Chester on the television series "The Irregulars" (Dec 18 #5); it will focus on a group of street urchins whose crime-solving success a drug-addict Holmes takes credit for. And yes, the reporter really is named Gemma Sherlock.
502. The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Mi Amigos Phoenix, on Sept. 25, warmly welcomed to Arizona during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. We will meet next in Houston on June 10, and in Montréal on Oct. 28.
503. The GSA's program included a presentation on an interesting use of forensic geology: Marjorie A. Chan's paper "Case of the Missing Marbles: Iron Oxide Concretions of Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, Utah." Thousands of concretions (called "moqui marbles"), stolen by mineral collectors and dealers, were recovered by the feds, and the perpetrators were prosecuted <www.tinyurl.com/y69n835f>.
504. Sep 19 #7 "Don't just book it, Thomas Cook it," was the advertising motto of the company that once was the largest travel agency in the world. Founded in 1841, but in recent years battered by the economics of Brexit and the growth of do-it-yourself booking, the company went into compulsory liquidation this month, leaving hundreds of thousands of vacationers stranded. There's a Canonical connection, of course: Watson consulted "the manager at Cook's local office" in Lausanne (in "Lady Frances Carfax").
505. The Fifth Annual International Sherlockian Summit (a meeting of the Sherlockian societies in the Pacific northwest) will be hosted by the Dogs in then Nighttime in Anacortes, Wash., on Nov. 2, Details are available from Sheila Holtgrieve <sheilaholtgrieve@gmail.com>.
506. "The first time I went to London," Michael Hingston wrote in the Washington Post on Sept. 15, "I asked a friend who lived there for bookstore recommendations. 'Well,' he said, 'that depends. What kind?' I was too embarrassed to admit I didn't realize I had to specify." It's a delightful article, and you can read it at <www.tinyurl.com/y26eed6>.
507. Jack Perkins died on Aug. 19. After a long career as a newscaster at NBC-TV, he joined A&E in 1991, when it focused on arts and entertainment before turning to reality television, and became best known as the host of their "Biography" series, narrating its program on "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" (1995).

508. "In the Company of Harold Prince: Broadway Producer, Director, Collaborator" is a new exhibition running at the N.Y. Public Library for the Performing Arts through Mar. 31 <www.tinyurl.com/y3dwsfax>. Hal Prince, who died on July 31, had a long career as a producer and director, beginning with "Pajama Game" in 1954, and continuing with a long list of Broadway successes, including directing the musical "Baker Street" in 1964 (Aug 19 #2).
509. "Sherlock Holmes is dead. Or so it is assumed. The world knows the great detective went over the falls at Reichenbach with his nemesis Professor Moriarty. But as Holmes' body was never retrieved, a number of frauds, fakes, and charlatans have come forward since to lay claim to his identity, and it falls to Dr. Watson to disprove them. Then a telegram arrives informing Watson that three men, each claiming to be Holmes, have been committed to a remote asylum off the coast of Scotland. Now Watson must discover if one of the mad men is the real Sherlock Holmes." That's the premise of Jeffrey Hatcher's play "Holmes and Watson" (which I've now seen and enjoyed at a reasonably local theater); it is imaginative, and great fun, with suspense and a surprise ending, and recommended if it's produced at a theater near (or reasonably near) you.
510. The Dramatists Play Service offers the script <www.tinyurl.com/y65djwh9> (\$10.00), but it would be a great mistake to read the script before seeing the play. The play has been produced elsewhere, and well-reviewed, and all of the reviews seen so far have kindly and carefully not revealed the surprise ending.
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511. Sep 19 #8 Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed (in English) at the Circle Theatre in Copenhagen through Oct. 12 <www.ctcircle.dk>. It's also due at the University Theatre in Greenville, S.C., Oct.10-13 <www.gvltech.edu>; and at the Town Theatre in Columbia, S.C., Jan. 17-Feb. 2 <www.towntheatre.com>.
512. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is running at the Open Book Theatre in Trenton, Mich., through Oct. 12; web-site at <www.openbooktheatrecompany.net>.
513. Mark Finbow's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Seagull Rep Theatre in Lowestoft, Suffolk, Oct. 1-2, and will then go on tour in East Anglia <www.seagullrep.co.uk>.
514. The Baker Street Readers will present "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Hooker-Dunham Theater in Brattleboro, Vt., Oct. 4-5; Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/bakerstreetreaders>.
515. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (written and performed by Rod Goodall and Steve Johnston) will be performed at the Mick Lally Theatre in Galway on Oct. 12 <www.druid.ie>; and at the Town Hall Theatre in Galway on Oct. 24-25 <www.tht.ie>.
516. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Macon Little Theatre in Macon, Ga., Oct. 18 to 27 <www.maconlittletheatre.org>; and at the Rubber City Theatre in Akron, Ohio, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 10 <www.rubbercitytheatre.com>.
517. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" has been planned at the Manistee High School Auditorium in Brethren, Mich., Oct. 18-27; more information can be found at <www.manisteecivicplayers.org>.
518. Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert, Ohio, Nov. 22 and 23 <www.vwhstheatre.weebly.com>.
519. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Harlequin Theatre in Olympia, Wash., Nov. 27-Dec. 31 <www.harlequinproductions.org>.
520. "Tweedy Presents: The Missing Company of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham, Glos., Feb. 16-23; their web-site's at <www.everymantheatre.co.uk>.
521. "Sherlock Holmes Returns" ("an immersive dinner theatre experience") is to be performed at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, N.J., Mar. 10-Apr. 30 <www.hhplayhouse.com>.
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522. Oct 19 #1 Sherlockians will gather in New York on Jan. 15-19 to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 166th birthday, and the most efficient way to receive information about all the goings-on will be via the "News from the BSI" e-mail system, which will offer an opportunity to reserve for events as soon as reservations open; if you've not already signed up for the service, you can do so easily at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>. Almost all of the events are open to everyone, and there's always much more going on than anyone with reasonable sense or stamina can deal with. There will be more information at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, and his helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be found in December at <ihose.co/bsi2020tips>.
523. 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 are on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm#newgifts>; there also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana.
524. Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss have not been on vacation. The first offi-cial trailer for their new "Dracula" series carries the warning "Guidance: Horror" <www.tinyurl.com/yy6ku49f>, and it's thoroughly appropriate. The trailer also notes that the new series is "from the makers of Sherlock."
525. The Adventure of the Abbey Grange, published by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Fondation Martin Bodmer in 2016, offers a full-color facsimile of the manuscript, with a preface by Vincent Delay and an excellent essay by Catherine Cooke that discusses both the history of the manuscript and the different versions of the text of the story, and it's still available from the Society (\$65.00) <www.tinyurl.com/y2ba8pmn> (and recom-mended to anyone who wants to see exactly what Conan Doyle wrote when he first put pen to paper.
526. Also available from the Society is a second printing of Jessica Victoria Woolf's Through the Archives (\$25.00); first published in 2018; the book offers 75 pages, fully illustrated in color, showing the Society's history as portrayed in its archives <www.tinyurl.com/y6acl8eu>.
527. "Storm Area 51: They Can't Stop All of Us" was a Facebook event that took place on Sept. 20 at the U.S. Air Force Nevada Test and Training Range for those hoping to search for extraterrestrial life; more than 2 million people reported "going" (and 1.5 million more were "interested"), and about 150 people actually showed up at the entrance to Area 51, with none succeeding in entering the site. Not really Sherlockian, but the "Storm Area 51" event inspired a "Storm Loch Ness" event scheduled one day later for people who wanted to find the Loch Ness Monster; it would appear that no one took this seriously enough to show up the event, but publicity in the press often mentioned that "Nessie" already had been found, in 2016, when a Norwegian company using an underwater robot equipped with sonar imaging to explore the loch located the model used in the movie "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) (Apr 16 #5); the model sank while the movie was being filmed, and still rests quietly on the bottom of the loch.
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528. Oct 19 #2 The summer 2019 issue of The Magic Door (that's the newsletter of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) includes an interesting article by Randall Stock about the "The Parish Magazine" (both the manuscript and the story), Rob-ert S. Katz's discussion of Round the Red Lamp, and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection; copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
529. And Cliff, chairman of the Friends, suggests in a separate letter that it might be time for an active literary society devoted to Conan Doyle; you can read his letter on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yyw9hn8b>.

530. "Why No BU Student Wants to Be a Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on an article in the Deccan Herald (Sept. 19). Not Boston University, but rather Bangalore University, where not a single student signed up for a master's degree program in criminology. "We all love Sherlock Holmes," the story suggested, but no student "wants to be like him in real life."
531. Howard Ostrom has noted an imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká < www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2 > of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes, in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire; it's not easy to visit the Garden: see the story in the Stratford Observer earlier this year < www.tinyurl.com/y287nhsg >. The Garden will be open for at least a few days next year, according to the Eventbrite web-site < www.tinyurl.com/y228p3dg > (where you can sign up for notifications of additional open days).
532. Jerry Margolin reports that "Under Your Sky" is a new album from The Sherlocks, a British indie/rock band from Sheffield that plays on tour (Jun 17 #6); their web-site's at < www.thesherlocksmusic.co.uk >.
533. AM New York was launched by Newsday in 2003 as the first free daily newspaper in New York city, and of course they have a web-site, where you can read their story about the Mysterious Bookshop, which has been in business for more than 40 years < www.tinyurl.com/y5tfvekj >. Otto Penzler, its proprietor, proudly boasts that it is "the oldest and largest mystery bookstore in the world."
534. You've likely seen Derren Brown (briefly) in "Sherlock: The Empty Hearse" and you can read about him in an "Annals of Show Business" article in the New Yorker (Oct. 7) < www.tinyurl.com/y4by6a4y >, and listen to a New Yorker podcast about him on Aug. 16 < www.tinyurl.com/y28fs2ek >.
535. An article in the Camden New Journal (Sept. 18) is headlined "Lillie Plays the Field" < www.tinyurl.com/y56hdm6w > and is based on Neil Titley's now-out-of-print The Oscar Wilde World of Gossip; it tells some grand stories about Lillie Langtry, who is believed by many to have been at least one of the inspirations for Irene Adler. Titley tells more stories at his colorful web-site at < www.wildetheatre.co.uk >.
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536. Oct 19 #3 The Missing Mr. Moonstone (Marlborough Court, 2019; 178 pp., \$14.99) is the first in Peter Tong's "Detective Ladies of Baker Street" series; Sherlock Holmes is reported to have died in Switzerland, and Mrs. Hudson and her Cockney maid-of-all-work Fanny-Annie Grubbins find themselves involved in "detectivising" in pursuit of a missing husband and his wife's missing jewelry. He has written a play "Mrs. H. of Baker Street" (2005) and two more novels in his "detective ladies" series, and has a web-site at < www.petertong.org >; his publisher's web-site is at < www.marlboroughcourt.org >.
537. The next 221B Con will be held in Atlanta on Apr. 3-5. The annual event (billed as a "fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes") was first held in 2013, and more information is available at < www.221bcon.com >.
538. If you would like to know more about the BSI Archives (which will be celebrated at a conference on Nov. 8-10), Glen Miranker and Ross Davies were interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog; listen to the interview at < www.tinyurl.com/y35nq7mf >.
539. Pan Macmillan has reissued eight of its volumes of Sherlock Holmes stories in its "Macmillan Collector's Library" with attractive new cover artwork < www.tinyurl.com/y4vxbjx4 >.
540. Gillette Castle is celebrating its 10th anniversary, and on Aug. 20 WTNH-TV (New Haven) aired a 15-minute interview with Friends of Gillette Castle president Wendy Vincent < www.tinyurl.com/y3yj8vy6 > that included a video tour of the Castle.
541. "Cleats" is a comic strip drawn by Bill Hinds, and Tina Rhea spotted this one on Oct. 7 (it's a repeat from 2008): The strip also was Sherlockian on Oct. 8 < www.tinyurl.com/y6pllzy9 >.
542. Karlan's Arms & Antiques is offering (on Nov. 4) a snub-nose .450 caliber revolver described as "a very nice example of a Webley Military and Police pistol as used by the famous Sherlock Holmes" < www.tinyurl.com/y9r926ny >. John Linsenmeyer, who knows about such things, says that the reference to Sherlock Holmes is not nonsensical: it's almost certainly the pocket pistol that the Canon mentions him carrying.
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543. Oct 19 #4 There aren't many authors who have been writing stories about Sherlock Holmes longer than Conan Doyle did (the first of his stories was published in 1887, and the last one in 1927). Nicholas Meyer certainly is one of them: his The Seven-Per-Cent Solution appeared in 1974 (and was both a best-seller and the basis for a hit movie), and his latest is The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 238 pp., \$25.99). The story is set in 1905, when Holmes and Watson are sent on a mission to determine the origins of the Protocols of Zion, and there is plenty of adventure as well as mystery (it's all nicely done indeed). The author has an excellent web-site at < www.nicholas-meyer.com >; click on [press] to find an interesting interview with Lenny Picker in Publishers Weekly in August, and click on [events] to see the schedule for public appearances and signings (it's well worth hearing what he has to say).
544. Dan Andriacco's House of the Doomed: An Adventure of Sherlock Holmes (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 115 pp., \$19.95) is an imaginative pastiche, set in 1901, when Holmes and Watson investigate a mystery in Surrey (in an area that had become quite popular with writers and artists); Conan Doyle was one of them (he moved to Haslemere in 1897, but doesn't appear in the story). Gasogene's web-site is at < www.gasogenebooks.com >, and Dan has his own at < www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com >.
545. The Japanese anime series "Kakukichō Sherlock" (Apr 19 #2) began airing on television in Japan on Oct. 11 (showing "the comedic, mysterious, and dramatic adventures of a ragtag band of detectives as they live together in a tenement above Mrs. Hudson's bar in the red-light district and at attempt to solve an unusual string of killings"). You can watch the first episode with English subtitles at < www.dailymotion.com/video/x7mkjkm >, Jennie Paton reports.
546. "Baker Street Elementary" is a long-running comic strip that's crafted by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason, and is available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star < www.dfw-sherlock.org >, along with much else of possible interest, such as a compilation of the text of this newsletter since it went electronic in 1985 (to be found under Ephemera).
547. There was a full-page advertisement on p. 18 in the Sept. 12, 1903, issue of Collier's Magazine announcing "The Return of Sherlock Holmes", with an attractive portrait of Conan Doyle: < www.tinyurl.com/yyzgd4k >. A copy of the page, matted and framed, sold for \$437.50 (including the buyer's premium) on Oct. 18 at Potter & Potter Auctions. And now for an important question: the artwork was credited to J.G.S.; does anyone know who J.G.S. was?
548. Homunculus Verlag < www.homunculus-verlag.de > has published three imaginative Sherlockian advent calendars, the first two only in German, and the third this year in English as well as German; they're colorfully attractive and offer 24 solve-it-yourself mini-mysteries. €15.00 each from the publisher in Germany. This year's English version also is available from MX Publishing for £12.99 < www.tinyurl.com/y2gq3x5h >, and for \$19.99 from The Strand Magazine < www.tinyurl.com/y6k8tn4b >.
549. Oct 19 #5 The famous (perhaps infamous) "Sherlock Holmes tent joke" has been in circulation at least since 1998, and in 2002 won second place in a Laughlab experiment intended to determine the world's funniest joke. I won't publish it again (since I promised not to), but you can find it easily on

- the Internet. I will call attention to two amusing tributes to the joke in the “Baker Street Elementary” comic strip in 2015 < www.tinyurl.com/y5rj2zm8> and 2019 < www.tinyurl.com/y6loduw7>.
550. “The Beekeeper’s Apprentice changed my life,” Laurie R. King has written, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the book by telling some nice stories about those long-ago days when the long-running (and continuing) saga of Mary Russell was launched < www.tinyurl.com/y4c5f7qw>.
551. Anna Quayle died on Aug. 16. She began acting at the Edinburgh Fringe in 1956, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television, winning a Tony Award as best featured actress in a musical in “Stop the World —I Want to Get Off” in 1963, and playing Freda (Sigmund Freud’s maid) in “The Seven-Per-Cent Solution” (1976).
552. When in Lebanon (Pennsylvania): the Red-Headed League Public House will be opening in November, on the top floor of the Lebanon Farmers Market. According to a post on their Facebook page < www.tinyurl.com/y58gq2ya>, the Sherlock Holmes story was inspired by a notorious murder committed by the Blue-Eyed Six in Lebanon in 1878.
553. “Bruce Wayne once told me that if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains—however improbable—must be the truth,” Adrian Chase said, in the “Starling City” episode of “Arrow” broadcast on The CW on Oct. 15. Adrian Chase is Earth-2’s Green Arrow, and “Arrow” is a sister series of the CW series “The Flash” (which featured Harrison “Sherloque” Wells in a recent season).
554. Derham Groves’ Feng-Shui and Western Building Ceremonies (Singapore: Graham Brash, 1991; 114 pp.) offers an architect’s approach to the geomancy of places, and the architect is a Sherlockian, so there’s a case study of the feng-shui of 221B Baker Street; the book is out of print, but readily available at Amazon and AbeBooks.
555. When in Naperville, Ill.: you can drive along Conan Doyle Road, in an area where the streets were named by someone who obviously enjoyed reading; see the Google map at < www.tinyurl.com/y3lrhq8f>.
556. They’re not mentioned in the Canon, but just about anyone who has visited or lived in London since 1948 has ridden in one of the iconic black cabs. My London had an interesting story on Oct. 20 < www.tinyurl.com/y6tobkvs> that included some facts that might be new to you, such as: the taxis are allowed to have a maximum turning circle of only 25 feet because the entrance to the Savoy hotel has a small roundabout that can’t be navigated by vehicles with a wider turning circle. And the taxis are black because when the Austin FX3 was introduced in 1948, black was the standard color, and buyers had to pay extra for any other color, so fleet owners decided that black was best.
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557. Oct 19 #6 “Search the Sherlock Holmes Stories” is a useful feature included in the on-line Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia that’s maintained by Alexis Barquin, offering a search engine and the Oxford University Press version of the 62 stories < www.tinyurl.com/y3jcf5js>. Yes, that’s 62, because he considers the Apocryphal “The Field Bazaar” and “How Watson Learned the Trick” to be Sherlock Holmes stories.
558. Scott Monty describes Vincent Starrett’s sonnet “221B” as an “iconic poem” for Sherlockians, and so it is; you can read what Scott has to say at his “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog < www.tinyurl.com/y48tx9x>, and follow links to the eleven chapters of Ray Betzner’s new (and delightful) monograph about the poem at his “Studies in Starrett” blog.
559. William D. Goodrich (“Alexander Holder”) died on Oct. 20. He had a long career in banking in Chicago and was an energetic member of the Sherlockian societies there. Bill was one of the founders of Baker Street Miscellanea in 1975 and compiled two editions of his Good Old Index to the Canon in 1987 and 1994. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.
560. “It’s summertime on the Riviera, where the Jazz Age is busily reinventing the holiday delights of warm days on golden sand and cool nights on terraces and dance floors,” Laurie R. King writes. The next Mary Russell novel, Riviera Gold, is set on the Côte d’Azur in 1925, when Russell and Sherlock Holmes encounter “hot sun and cool jazz, new friendships and old loyalties, childlike pleasures, and very grown-up sins.” Publication date is June 9. And it’s nice indeed when researching for a book means that travel is a business expense.
561. “Gwyneth Paltrow Hired a Personal Book Curator” was the headline on an article in Town & Country on Aug. 20 < www.tinyurl.com/y45h6ove>. The personal book curator, Thatcher Wine of Juniper Books < www.juniperbooks.com>, also offers custom book jackets for sets of books that turn the books into an appropriate artistic image on your shelves, and there are two sets of the Canon.
562. It’s possible that Holmes and Watson were aware of J. Hepworth & Son, gentlemen’s tailors, founded in Leeds in 1864; the firm, now called Next, is a chain of more than 500 stores that offer clothing and furnishings that include a wide and colorful variety of “Sherlock” chairs, sofas, and foot-stools < www.next.co.uk/homeware/sofas-chairs/sherlock>, kindly reported by Annie Utechin.
563. Mycroft and Sherlock: The Empty Birdcage (New York: Titan, 2019; 128 pp., \$25.99) is the third in the series written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse; it’s now 1873, and Mycroft, although he has resigned his post as secretary to the Secretary of State for War, has maintained his government contacts and finds them useful indeed when he meddles in international criminal affairs while he also tries to shepherd his annoying younger brother, who’s in pursuit of a different criminal. It’s nicely done, with style and substance.
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564. Oct 19 #7 “J. D. Salinger” is the title of an exhibition at the N.Y. Public Library, running until Jan. 19 < www.nypl.org/salinger>, and displaying his manuscripts, letters, photographs, books, and personal effects, including a bookcase from Salinger’s bedroom filled with books from his personal library. According to a report in the N.Y. Times (Oct. 18), the authors whose books he wanted close at hand at the end of his life included Conan Doyle; the library kindly reports that the two-volume edition of The Complete Sherlock Holmes is on display in the bookcase.
565. It was in Salinger’s story “Hapworth 16, 1924” (published in the June 19, 1965, issue of The New Yorker) that seven-year-old Seymour Glass wrote to his family from summer camp that “my love for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ... is an absolute certainty!” Roger Lathbury wrote in New York magazine on Apr. 4, 2010 < www.tinyurl.com/y2abnf4> about how he almost managed to publish the first edition of the story, Salinger’s last book.
566. Individual 7-cm figurines in the “Sherlockians” collection handcrafted in resin by Spanish artist Marco Navas are still available (€35.00 each), but the gallery designed to display them has sold out. Details and images can be found at < www.marconavas.com>.
567. “In a series starting with The Beekeeper’s Apprentice, young Mary Russell teams up with this British sleuth” was the answer worth \$400 in the category “Untrue Detective” on the television series “Jeopardy” on Oct. 2, according to Bill Mosteller. One contestant guessed “Morse” and the other two passed.
568. Don Hobbs is expanding his Galactic Sherlock Holmes data-base of foreign translations (which now has almost 8,000 entries) to include appearances in magazines and newspapers, and would be glad to hear from anyone who has found something that’s not already in the data-base; the latest version is available on request as a 222-MB WeTransfer file < 221b@verizon.net>.
569. “Bunny Yeager was a model and a beauty queen before becoming a photographer herself,” I noted some years ago (May 97 #2), in an item about her offer of collector’s cards that included “Sherlock Holmes’ Apprentice” (for those more than 18 years old). Howard Ostrom has discovered an interesting item at eBay < www.tinyurl.com/y2m2f732> open for bidding until Nov. 7.

570. The "British Library Crime Classics" series of anthologies edited by Martin Edwards (Jun 16 #5) continues, with Edwards providing enthusiastic introductions and a careful selection of stories, and the latest, just out, is *Deep Waters: Mysteries on the Waves*, reported to include "The Gloria Scott" (U.S. editions are published by the Poisoned Pen Press).
571. MC Black, of Detective Walks, will lead a walk "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" on the evening on Nov. 14, through Covent Garden and the West End; details are available from MC at < mcb@detectivewalks.co.uk >. This is one day before the symposium on "Conan Doyle and London" at the Institute of English Studies in London < www.tinyurl.com/y57xc3gq >; it's open to the public, and it is the first event associated with The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle, planned for publication by the University of Edinburgh Press.
572. Oct 19 #8 Falling Stars Theatre < www.fallingstarstheatre.co.uk > advertise that they're "known for their immersive style of performance," and are touring Yorkshire with a play written by Geoff Parker, presented by A.R.S.E.S. (the Amateur Rural Society of Entertainment and Singers). The play is "an antimime for grownups!" and seems to have a different title for each performance ("Join Sherlock, Watson, and Woof as they embark on a journey to deepest, darkest Yorkshire in search of a beast").
573. David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" is being performed at the 10th Street Stage in Toledo, Ohio, through Nov. 3 < www.toledorep.org >.
574. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Quogue Community Hall in Quogue, N.Y., through Nov. 10; web-site at < www.hamptontheatre.org >. And it's due at the Pima Community College Center for the Arts in Tucson, AZ, Nov. 7-17 < www.tinyurl.com/yy2gyv6s >.
575. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Carpenter Square Theatre in Oklahoma City, Okla., through Nov. 9 < www.carpentersquare.com >.
576. Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Warren Arts Foundation in McMinnville, Tenn., Nov. 1-10; their web-site's at < www.warrenartstn.ticketleap.com >.
577. Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Gryphon Theatre in Laramie, Wyo., Nov. 7-16; web-site at < www.gryphontheatre.org >.
578. John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is scheduled at the P. W. Enns Centennial Concert Hall in Winkler, Manitoba, Nov. 7-10 < www.flatlandstheatre.com >.
579. A. S. Waterman's "Sherlock Holmes and 'T' Was the Murder Before Christmas" (an interactive dinner murder mystery) will be produced at the Bristol Bar and Grill in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 16-Jan. 4 < www.tinyurl.com/y5c95gou >.
580. "Sherlock Holmes and the Warlock of Whitechapel" (a new play by Pat Whymark and Julian Harries) will be on tour in East Anglia, Dec. 12-Jan. 19 < www.commongroundtc.co.uk >.
581. The Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled in the Gold Digger in Fringe Central in Perth, W.A., from Jan. 26 to Feb 3 < www.tinyurl.com/yyxrq9e >.
582. Sandra Bass' new adaptation "Sherlock Holmes and the Death on Thor Bridge" will be performed at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., Feb. 28-Apr. 4 < www.genesiantheatre.co.uk >.
583. Nov 19 #1 "Building an Archive: A Celebration of the Arrival of the BSI Archives at the Lilly Library" (the conference in Bloomington on Nov. 8-10) went very well, offering participants behind-the-scenes tours of the Lilly as well as an exhibition of treasures from the Archives. More than 90 people were on hand, and Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "Live from the Lilly Library" is episode #180 of their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" interviews; you can tune in to the proceedings at < ihose.co/ihose180 >.
584. Harrison and Linda Hunt's "Aboriginals" (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 2019; 252 pp., \$24.95) offers brief biographies and photographs of the many men (and women) who were "the earliest Baker Street Irregulars, 1934-1940," attending annual dinners or solving the crossword puzzle that was published in the Saturday Review of Literature in 1934; it's available from the BSI at < www.bakerstreetirregulars.com >. The BSI also is offering a deep discount on the few remaining copies of the Undershaw Limited Edition set at < www.tinyurl.com/t94d6pw >.
585. And there's still time to subscribe to the Baker Street Journal for 2019 (\$41.95) and receive all five issues, including the BSJ Christmas Annual, which will be about William S. Baring-Gould (who was the first to annotate the Canon) and will be available only to subscribers. But: the deadline for 2019 subscriptions is Dec. 6.
586. Type Punch Matrix, the rare book firm founded by Rebecca Romney and Brian Cassidy has issued its first catalog < www.tinyurl.com/y2xv2747 >; it nicely begins with two items of "Victorian Fact and Fiction": the first book edition of *A Study in Scarlet* (illustrated by the author's father Charles Altamont Doyle and published in 1888), and a second edition of a Police Manual (prepared by a Committee of Chief Constables of Scotland and published in 1894). The second book is "the real-life handbook for constables during the era of the romanticization of detective work in Scotland-born author Arthur Conan Doyle's stories."
587. The Crew of the Barque Lone Star has published *The Canon: Five Lines at a Time*, an amusing collection of Sherlockian limericks submitted by members of the society and edited by Steve Mason; it's available to one and all as a free download at < www.tinyurl.com/ybaqwa7y >.
588. Registration is now open for the "Holmes in the Heartland" conference in St. Louis on July 24-26; details at < www.tinyurl.com/y7d5elmp >.
589. Big Chief Studios has announced a "warehouse clearance everything must go" sale on its authorized (and expensive) figures, dioramas, and artwork from the "Sherlock" television series < www.tinyurl.com/y6t5z5z5 >.
590. Yahoo (which is owned by Verizon) has announced that it is shutting down Yahoo Groups on Dec. 14, and all Group contents will be deleted. The moderators of "Letters of Mary", a Yahoo group for fans of Laurie R. King's "Mary Russell" stories with more than 900 members, have found a new home for the group, at < lettersofmary@grops.io >. There's no word as yet about any other Sherlockian or Doylean groups that used Yahoo.
591. Nov 19 #2 David M. Rush died on Oct. 28. He was a life-long Sherlockian and Doylean in Illinois, and as a guest columnist for the Decatur Herald & Review he made sure that his readers were often reminded of his enthusiasms. David also contributed to society newsletters and journals, and his article on "Holmes and the Opera Ghost" was reprinted from the Devon County Chronicle in an 1985 edition of Gaston Leroux's *The Phantom of the Opera*.
592. "Get clued in during downtime, the N.Y. Times suggests, in an advertisement for its crossword puzzles, spotted by Samantha Wolov. You can subscribe to the puzzles for \$39.95/year (which helps the paper avoid becoming what some have called "the failing N.Y. Times").
593. Bunny Yeager's "Sherlock Holmes' Apprentice" at auction at eBay (Oct 19 #7) < www.tinyurl.com/y2m2f732 > sold for \$199.99, one assumes to someone who enjoys blondes wearing only a deerstalker.

594. Richard K. Radek's *The Problem of the Singular Stradivarius* (2014) and *The Tragedy of the Salopian Roses and Three Short Stories* (2019) are the first two volumes of his "The Sequestered Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (184/ 271 pp., \$13.95/\$14.95); they're traditional pastiches, involving Holmes and Watson with forged Strads and other mysteries in an around London.
595. The snub-nose .450 caliber Webley Military and Police revolver offered at auction at Karlan's Arms & Antiques on Nov. 4 (Oct 19 #4) sold for \$650, rather more than Sherlock Holmes would have paid for his.
596. "Cartoonist Gahan Wilson Is Looking to Find His Way" was the headline on a story in 27 East on Oct. 30 < www.tinyurl.com/y6rjuzyg> about Gahan Wilson, who has drawn some delightful Sherlockian cartoons over the years. Now 89 and suffering from dementia and other health issues, he is living in Arizona and is still drawing; some of his recent artwork is on-line at a GoFundMe page < www.gofundme.com/f/gahan-wilson-team-effort>.
597. Nicholas Meyer is on tour promoting his new pastiche *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols*, and if you've missed seeing and hearing him, you can listen to Richard Wolinsky's fine 45-minute interview with Nick on KPFA-FM on Oct. 24 < www.kpfa.org/episode/bookwaves-october-24-2019>, with discussion of the new book and much more.
598. Derrick Belanger writes that Belanger Books is calling for submissions for its second young-adult Sherlock Holmes anthology (the first was *The Irregular Adventure of Sherlock Holmes*); guidelines are available from Derrick at < derrickbelanger@gmail.com>.
599. "Your house can't shave, but it can smell great!" according to the Chiseled Face Groomatorium, which advertises a handmade "Sherlock Scented Candle" that offers "a warm tobacco-based scent blended with toasted caramel, black pepper, moist dirt, and finished with a touch of leather, mandarin, honey, and rose" (\$15.99) and a wide variety of other Sherlock products at their web-site < www.chiseledface.com>.

600. Nov 19 #3 "It is rumored there is an element of Sherlock Holmes in the construction of the new SWISSPEAK resorts in Meiringen," according to flier announcing the opening of a new apartment resort located just across the road from the Sherlock Holmes Museum. The apartment resort will open on Dec. 11 ("there are rumors that Sherlock Holmes will be mingling in the lobby"), and there's a link at the end of their imaginative flier < www.tinyurl.com/s6rtijk> to more information about the Interhome resort.
601. Jeremy Kemp died on July 19. He started acting on radio with the BBC in 1958, starred in the BBC television series "Z Cars" (1962), and went on to a long career that included roles such as Baron Karl von Leinsdorf in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) and Dr. Grimesby Roylott in Granada's "The Speckled Band" (1984).
602. Watson's Tin Box is hosting the next "Scintillation of Scions" on June 12-14, 2020, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It's an entertaining gathering of local and far-flung Sherlockians and will include the annual running of The Silver Blaze (Southern Division) at Laurel Park Racetrack. Registration is now open <www.scintillation.org>.
603. Denny Dobry has very kindly reported viaLibri < www.vialibri.net>, a spectacular web-site managed by James A. Hinck, that provides a search engine that finds books and magazines advertised on a long list of on-line web-sites.
604. The Strand Magazine's colorful "Sherlock Holmes Calendar 2020" (\$24.95) is available at < www.tinyurl.com/woetvyj>. And Mark Alberstat's "2020 Sherlockian Calendar" includes Canonical artwork (mostly by Sidney Paget) and information from the Baring-Gould chronology, and can be downloaded (without charge) at < www.tinyurl.com/ue2qmbd>.
605. "Let us consider the claims of Whitaker's Almanack," Holmes suggested (in "The Valley of Fear"). The Bookseller reported on Nov. 19 that Bloomsbury Yearbooks, is offering to sell Whitaker's assets (the current edition, the on-line edition, and backlist editions going back to 1869), describing the almanac as "an excellent investment opportunity for the buyer interested in preserving this historic publication and presenting definitive answers to questions in an era of 'fake news.'" < www.tinyurl.com/skylo4k>.
606. Howard Ostrom notes a story in the Sunderland Echo on Nov. 1 about the new range of clothing offered by Master Debonair < www.tinyurl.com/y5q5ovxq> in mix-and-match pairs for Holmes & Watson, Rathbone & Bruce, and Lestrade & Moriarty < www.tinyurl.com/y6x3p2sl>.
607. Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman have launched a new podcast called "Doings of Doyle" < www.doingsofdoyle.com> devoted to discussion of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian writings; the first episode deals with *The Doings of Raffles Haw*. See also the entry on "The Ophthalmologist's Tale" and its link to an article in Eye News (Oct. 1) that focuses on the Conan Doyle notebook held by the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh that contains the manuscript of "The American's Tale" and an unpublished poem.

608. Nov 19 #4 The life-size chocolate statue of Benedict Cumberbatch commissioned by UKTV (Apr 15 #3) now is available to all in a smaller version, Mental Floss reported (on Apr. 12) < www.tinyurl.com/weox3cy>. You can make a note to order one for Easter next year, from Chocolatician < www.chocolatician.com> (£39.95 and up); 400 grams (about 14 oz.) of chocolate, and they come in three flavors: milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and white chocolate (with a 22-carat bow tie).
609. Karen Murdock notes that the [London] Independent said "We'd be hard-pressed to say there's anything entirely useful about these glasses shaped like the pipe Sherlock Holmes puffed on while solving his most difficult cases." The stems are glass straws useful for those who prefer not to sip their wine, and the Wino Sippos Glasses are available from Firebox (\$18.99 for a set of two < www.tinyurl.com/y96cvv2x>). The paper suggests that "Christmas is about having a bit of fun, and these glasses are guaranteed to add to a general feeling of seasonal goodwill." Firebox doesn't mention Sherlock Holmes, but it does promise that "it's almost impossible to knock one of these bad boys over."
610. No Word from Winifred (1986) is one of a long series of mysteries written by Amanda Cross (the pen name used by Carolyn G. Heilbrun), and it's literate, witty, and entertaining, and full of Canonical allusions.
611. "Tom Steyer's Fortune Fuels Underdog 2020 Campaign" was the headline on an Associated Press story (Nov. 17) < www.tinyurl.com/v26uz9m>. The hopeful Democrat suggested that "this race is completely up in the air—seriously," adding that "the game's afoot."
612. *The Devil's Due*, by Bonnie MacBird (London: Collins Crime Club, 2019; 369 pp., \$26.99), is her third pastiche, and it involves Holmes and Watson in a battle against villainous opponents, with a series of gruesome murders, and plenty of twists and turns. Her fourth pastiche (*The Three Locks*) is due next year, and it will be a prequel; Bonnie's interesting web-site at <www.macbird.com> offers blogs and annotations on the series.
613. The Look and Learn History Picture Library < www.lookandlearn.com> offers access to "one of the world's largest and most unusual collections of historical pictures and vintage imagery," and the artwork is interesting indeed; their search engine turns up 96 images for [sherlock holmes] and 172 images for [conan doyle].
614. The Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh has awarded this year's Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Medal, which recognizes the highest-placed graduate ChM (Master of Surgery) in clinical ophthalmology, to Hani Hasan, according to the Swindon Advertiser (Nov. 12) < www.tinyurl.com/u33kpmf>.

615. Flickering Myth reported on Nov. 21 that Titan Comics has announced a new comic-book series "Adler" that has Irene Adler teaming up with a "League of Extraordinary Gentlewomen" to take on Moriarty; the first issue is due on Feb. 5, and there's a preview of the first issue (with lots of colorful artwork) at < www.tinyurl.com/w4qnjc2>.
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616. Nov 19 #5 There's seemingly no end to Internet buzz about whether there will be a new season of the BBC's "Sherlock" (it appears that it's absolutely positively definitely certain that there may or may not be new season), but Howard Ostrom noted some interesting news in Radio Times (Nov. 18) < www.tinyurl.com/rnn3tuf>: now that work has been completed on their three-episode series "Dracula" (which is due this year on BBC One) Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss told an interviewer that they would like to bring back another iconic detective: Columbo. "I did have a decent go at it," Moffat said, "but the rights are really tied up."
617. Alan Barnes' "The Sherlock Holmes Suite" was recorded and released in 2003 and is available as a 2-CD set at Amazon; he's still performing, and received an enthusiastic review from Leon Nock in the on-line Jazz Journal on Nov. 19 < www.tinyurl.com/wgjp88>.
618. Karen Murdock has reported an item in the Daily Telegraph (Nov. 5) about a politician on "Team Farage": candidate Sarah Wass (East Leeds) is a human resources expert who talked her way into university despite have no A-levels. The Brexit Party said she held "two world records" for taking part in the biggest ever elf gathering, and the biggest Sherlock Holmes dance-off. The Guinness World Records web-site does have an entry for the largest gathering of Santa's elves < www.tinyurl.com/u7kdbhk>, but no entry for a Sherlock Holmes dance-off.
619. Ross Davies has reported a Kickstarter campaign for The Art of Frank Cho: A Twenty-Year Retrospective < www.tinyurl.com/u8mtubk>; if you run the video you can see him engaging in Sherlockian artistry. You can also scroll down to see his portrait of Holmes and Watson.
620. Further to previous mentions of Big Chief Studios' authorized (and expensive) figures from the "Sherlock" television series, they're also offering fans of "Game of Thrones" a figure of Daenerys Targaryen: Mother of Dragons at a pre-order price of £1,499 < www.tinyurl.com/rxopv83>. Fans of the "Game of Thrones" series obviously are presumed to be more fanatical than fans of the "Sherlock" series. On the other hand, there have been no reports (yet) of a "Game of Thrones" escape room.
621. When in Scotland: it's remote connection, but Airth Castle was the ancestral home of the Baronets of Stenhouse; Nigel Bruce was the younger son of the 10th baronet, and thus didn't inherit the title. On Nov. 13 the Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser published a letter to the editor from Cameron Stevenson, who suggested that if Nigel Bruce had been the older son, he might not have gone to Hollywood to become Rathbone's Dr. Watson. Airth Castle now is a hotel < www.airthcastlehotel.com>, near Stirling about 40 miles from Edinburgh; there's no mention of Nigel Bruce at their web-site.
622. The Baker Street Quarter Partnership is the business improvement district (BID) for the Marylebone area of London, and they are celebrating Christmas this year with installations of Christmas lights. Baker Street will feature illuminated geese perched on columns to remind passersby of "The Blue Carbuncle".
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623. Nov 19 #6 It's not possible to forecast all upcoming theater in a monthly newsletter; if you would like to have more frequent news, Howard Ostrom offers just that at Twitter < [www.twitter.com/HowardOstrom](https://twitter.com/HowardOstrom)>.
624. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Art Square Theatre in Las Vegas, Nev., through Dec. 8 < www.theatre.vegas>.
625. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is on at the Murphys Creek Theatre in Murphys, Calif., through Dec. 15; web-site's at < www.murphyscreektheatre.org>. It also is scheduled at the Tacoma Little Theatre in Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 6-29 < www.tacomalittletheatre.com>; and at the Theatre of Western Springs in Western Springs, Ill., May 28 to June 7 < www.theatreofwesternsprings.com>.
626. "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" (by Michael Menendian and John Weagly) will be performed at the James Downing Theatre in Chicago, Ill., Dec. 6-15 < www.jamesdowningtheatre.com>; and at the Brumder Mansion in Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 6-21 < www.milwaukeeemansion.com>.
627. Susan I. Weinstein's new play "ETHER: The Strange Afterlife of Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" is scheduled at IRT in New York, Dec. 19-22 < www.irttheater.org>.
628. Michael Druce's "Sherlock Holmes and the Portal of Time" is due at Rover Dramawerks in Plano, Tex., Jan. 9-Feb. 1 < www.roverdramawerks.com>.
629. "Sherlock Holmes the Pantomime" will be performed at the Memorial Hall in Woodchurch, Kent, Jan. 17-25 < www.woodchurchplayers.com>.
630. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Melon Patch Theatre in Leesburg, Fla., Jan. 24-Feb. 9; the web-site's at < www.melonpatchplayers.org>.
631. "Tweedy and the Missing Company of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled on tour in the U.K., from Oxford (Jan. 25) to Cheltenham (Feb. 23); web-site's at < www.tweedyswebsite.com>.
632. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Waterville Opera House in Waterville, Maine, Jan. 31-Feb. 2 < www.operahouse.org>. it also has been scheduled at Greystone Hall in Akron, Ohio, Apr. 17 to May 3 < www.ohioshakespearefestival.com>.
633. Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Torchlight Theatre in Rocky View County, Alta., Mar. 12-14; their web-site's at < www.polariscentre.ca/torchlight>.
634. The East Lynne Theater Company has scheduled Craig Wichman's radio-style adaptation of "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Mar. 13-14 < www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
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635. Dec 19 #1 Jean Upton reports in the District Messenger that congratulations are in order for Jerome Coopersmith: on Nov. 12, aged 94, he became a Chevalier in the National Order of the French Legion of Honor, in recognition of his service to France in WW2 (Sherlock Holmes received the same honor for his tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin). Coopersmith wrote the book for the musical "Baker Street" (1964), and you can read about the ceremony, and his military career, in a story in the Long Island Herald on Nov. 21 < www.tinyurl.com/scar5v5>.
636. The District Messenger, launched in 1982 as the "grapevine service" of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is an excellent monthly round-up of goings on in the Sherlockian and Doylean world in Britain and elsewhere; all back issues are archived at < www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/newsletter>, and it's available by e-mail < district.messenger@yahoo.com>.
637. The "Sherlock Holmes tent joke" (Oct 19 #5) keeps turning up in new forms, including Legos < www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/742717>, noted by Jennie Paton.
638. Edward S. Smith Jr.'s The Floor Plans of Baker Street, first published in 1996, offers a survey of what was where at 221 Baker Street, on all of the floors, with plans and citations; a second printing of the 38-page booklet now is available at Amazon (\$15.00).
639. The new movie "Knives Out" is a delightful blend of mystery and comedy and excellent acting, and it has some imaginative Canonical allusions.

640. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge is the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of India <www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com>, now in its seventh year; the current issue (with 120 colorful pages) offers Sherlockian news from India, and a nice mix of scholarship and pastiche. All issues of the Proceedings can be found at the society's web-site.
641. Further to last month's report that Yahoo is shutting down Yahoo Groups, Jim Hawkins notes that WelcomeHolmes ("a discussion group for fans of Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes"), formerly at Yahoo, now is hosted at <www.groups.io/g/welcomeholmes>.
642. "Mostly Lost" is an annual conference at the Library of Congress' National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Va. (William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" was screened there in 2015), and one of the features of the conference is screenings of unidentified films, in hopes that someone can help. Take a look at what the Nitrate Film Interest Group has posted on-line <www.flickr.com/photos/nfig/albums>. Nothing seems Sherlockian, but there's always possibility that something of interest will turn up.
643. Jennie Paton found a jar of "It's Sedimentary, My Dear Cookie!" mix in an aisle at Trader Joe's; you may be able to find it at a local store, or buy it on-line <www.traderjoes.com/FearlessFlyer/Article/4578>. It was named by Jeannette Powers in a contest Trader Joe's ran in 2016 (Jul 16 #6).
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644. Dec 19 #2 Gahan Wilson died on Nov. 21. Neil Gaiman once described him as "having a cockeyed, dangerously weird way of looking at the world," and Wilson told a reporter that "life is a grotesque thing, inexplicable, odd." As a cartoonist Wilson was a master of the macabre, and a frequent contributor to the New Yorker, the National Lampoon, and Playboy. His Playboy cartoons often were Sherlockian, beginning with a delightful four-page spread in the Dec. 1959 issue and continuing over the years. He also was the Distinguished Speaker at the Baker Street Irregulars' lecture in 2005.
645. Don Hobbs continues to update "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes": he has found a translation into Sanskrit, bringing his count to 109 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pittman Shorthand). He shows covers in color and with bibliographic details for more than 8,200 entries; a thumb drive costs \$15.00 (postpaid) to the U.S. or \$20.00 (elsewhere) from Don (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028).
646. Joe Posnanski's The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini (New York: Avid Reader Press, 2019; 316 pp., \$28.00) is a delightful account of the author's pursuit of Houdini; aided by a legion of Houdini's fans (and some detractors), Posnanski offers a splendid exploration of why Houdini became (and still remains) a legend. Conan Doyle is mentioned in passing, but he wasn't really part of the story that Posnanski has told so well.
647. The podcast "Doings of Doyle" <www.doingsofdoyle.com> (launched last month by Mark Jones and Paul Chapman) now includes discussion of Conan Doyle's short story "The Winning Shot" (1883) and a report on last month's "Conan Doyle in London" conference. Planning is now underway for a "Conan Doyle in Edinburgh" conference <www.edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/events> at Napier University on June 25-27, 2020; Owen Dudley Edwards and Nicholas Daly will be the keynote speakers.
648. The Daily Sherlock Holmes, edited by Levi Stahl and Stacey Shintani (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019; 195 pp., \$14.00) offers "a year of quotes from the case-book of the world's greatest detective" that provide an excellent demonstration of how fascinating the language of the Canon is. And there are some amusing surprises in store for readers.
649. The Christmas Card Crime and Other Stories, edited by Martin Edwards (Naperville, Poisoned Pen Press, 2018; 224 pp., \$14.99) is part of the long-running series of "British Library Crime Classics"; none of the stories in this volume are Sherlockian or Doylean, but it includes a delightful story ("The Motive") by Ronald Knox, who in addition to being a fine author is credited with creating the "Grand Game" that Sherlockians still play.
650. Colonel Sebastian Moran's Secret Gun Club will hold their quadrennial hunt for the mongoose named Moriarty on Feb. 29; the gala will feature the mongoose chase, bison burgers, cash bar, awards, and surprises, and more information is available from Donald Izban (1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068). The club has been meeting on Leap Day every Leap Year since 1996.
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651. Dec 19 #3 René Auberjonois died on Dec. 8. He began his acting career on stage in 1962, appeared in his first film in 1964, went on to play Father John Mulcahy in "M.A.S.H." in 1970 and many other significant roles in films and on television. He played Sherlock Holmes in "The 1977 Milliken Breakfast Show" (a ten-act "industrial musical" performed at the Waldorf Astoria in New York) and read Mark Frost's pastiche The List of Seven for a Dove audiobook in 1993.
652. Profiles in History's "Hollywood: A Collector's Ransom" auction this month included a "vintage original doll of William Gillette in his role as Sherlock Holmes, presented to Gillette by his costumer on the opening night of the play" in 1899, estimated at \$400-\$600; it sold for \$4,000. Previously owned by Dan Posnanski, it went for \$2,000 when his collection was sold in 2017.
653. Further to last month's item about the Christmas lights that have been installed in Baker Street in London (featuring illuminated geese that will remind passersby of "The Blue Carbuncle"), the lights were designed by the Michael Grubb Studio, and are imaginative indeed.
654. The National Science and Media Museum, in Bradford, Yorks., now owns all three of the cameras that were used to photograph the Cottingley fairies, according to a report in the Yorkshire Post (Dec. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/todj7n3>. The article includes an image of all three cameras, which appear thoroughly antique in modern times when everyone seems to have a smartphone; the museum also owns original prints of the photographs, and watercolors sketches of fairies drawn by Elsie Wright, one of the young woman who took the photographs that convinced Conan Doyle that the fairies were real.
655. For those who were watching television in the 1960s (and remember "Beany and Cecil"), Greg Darak kindly reports an interview with Bob Clampett, the creator of the series, in Funny World (summer 1970); Clampett said that he was inspired by the prehistoric monsters in a silent movie when he created the dinosaur Cecil, and that Captain Hufflepuff, in beard and pith helmet, echoed a character in the film, which of course would have been "The Lost World" (1925). The series is available at YouTube, and "Beany Meets the Monstrous Monster" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ge5f2HSeFCc> is of particular interest: watch for Cecil as a detective, wearing a deerstalker.
656. Greg also has posed an intriguing challenge: where in the Canon is Sherlock Holmes likened to Cleopatra?
657. Garrison Keillor's "The Writer's Almanac" still is available on the Internet, and Bill Anselm noted a mention of Conan Doyle on Dec. 18, the date the Piltdown Man was presented to the Geological Society of London in 1912 <www.tinyurl.com/sh6ux9s>; the entry reports that "many scholars point the finger at Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the perpetrator," but includes a link to the Encyclopaedia Britannica article on the Piltdown Man that offers a more careful and less sensational discussion of the hoax.
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658. Dec 19 #4 Sky News noted on Dec. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/vd8na8q> the end of an era of British publishing: Pearson has decided to sell its remaining stake in Penguin Random House to Bertelsmann. Now none of the "big five" of English-language book publishing remain in British ownership (Macmillan is owned by another German publisher Holtzbrinck, John Murray (for many years the publisher of Conan Doyle's books) is now owned by

- the French company Hachette, HarperCollins is owned by News Corp in the U.S., and Simon & Schuster (once owned by Pearson) is owned by ViacomCBS.
659. Where in the Canon is Sherlock Holmes likened to Cleopatra? In “The Empty House” it’s Holmes himself who says, “I trust that age does not wither nor custom stale my infinite variety,” echoing the description of Cleopatra in Shakespeare’s “Antony and Cleopatra”.
660. Netflix has announced the lead actors in its new television series called “The Irregulars”: Harry Lloyd-Hughes (Sherlock Holmes) and Royce Pierreson (Doctor Watson); Tom Bidwell, who is writing the series, has said “what if Sherlock Holmes was a drug addict and a delinquent and the kids solve the whole case whilst he takes credit?”
661. And now for a mystery: the image shows Sophie Aldred as Ace, who was the companion to the Seventh Doctor (Sylvester McCoy) in the “Doctor Who” series from 1987 to 1989. Patrick J. DeCanio, who’s both a Sherlockian and a Whovian wonders, about one of the patches that Ace is wearing on her jacket. Andrew Cartmel, the script editor of the series at the time, has said that it is related to the Baker Street Irregulars, and Charles Prepolec hopes that a reader of this newsletter might know more about the patch, which (as might be expected) has been reproduced is available for Whovians (and others) at Etsy for only \$9.00 <www.tinyurl.com/sglbgbf>.
662. Too late for this year, but in plenty of time for 2020: Jim Suszynski reports two colorful Sherlockian Christmas cards offered by Allport Editions; there’s a third card that’s Sherlockian only if inspected closely. Go to <www.allport.com> and search for [sherlock].
663. Van Ryder Games is running a Kickstarter campaign for Sherlock Holmes: Baker Street Irregulars, which is described by the company as “a cooperative graphic novel adventures game” <www.tinyurl.com/uk94yf7>; there appear to be many Sherlockian games available; is anyone keeping track of them? Or maintaining a web-site that describes and discusses them?
664. Do you have quick nunchi? According to Euny Hong, author of *The Power of Nunchi: The Korean Secret to Happiness and Success*, noted by Yahoo! Lifestyle on Dec. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/txhsv4b>, picking up signals from your environment can make you a “nunchi ninja” like Steve Jobs, Tyron Lannister, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, and Sherlock Holmes.
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665. Dec 19 #5 The Red-Headed League Public House in Lebanon (Pennsylvania) (Oct 19 #5) is now open for business on the third floor of the Lebanon Farmers Market, the Lebanon Daily News reported on Dec. 13. The name of the restaurant pays tribute to the Sherlock Holmes story that was (according to owner Michael Kapp) inspired by a notorious murder committed by the Blue-Eyed Six in Lebanon in 1878 <www.tinyurl.com/trk74m9>.
666. The first permanent granite statue honoring Sherlock Holmes erected in the Americas has now been unveiled in Chester, Ill., according to Michael W. McClure <www.baskervilleproductions.com/statue>; Mike was interviewed earlier this year by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on the “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog <www.tinyurl.com/tu8l4py> discussing “Sherlock, Popeye, and More” (and yes, Popeye has a connection to Chester).
667. Ashley Polasek has reported on plans for The Conan Doyle Review, devoted to peer-reviewed scholarship on Conan Doyle’s life and work. The journal will begin accepting submissions in the summer of 2020, and the first volume will be published in the spring of 2021. A special limited-run preview issue will be on sale in Covent Garden West during the birthday festivities in New York. Scott Monty reported on the project at his “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog <www.tinyurl.com/uzk3qq>, and more information is available from Ashley (the editor-in-chief) at <editor@acdreview.org>.
668. Claudine Auger died on Dec. 18. She began her long career as an actor in France in 1958, went on to star as Domino in the James Bond film “Thunderball” in 1965, and played Isadora Klein in Granada’s “The Three Gables” in 1994.
669. An interesting letter will be at auction on Jan. 22 at Forum Auctions in London, estimated at £1,000-£1,500 <www.tinyurl.com/sew96fe>: P. G. Wodehouse wrote to Miss Terry Smith in 1933 that “I racked my brain for years for something that would make a series like the Sherlock Holmes stories, and could never get one,” adding that he “suddenly found that I had written about a dozen stories round Jeeves and that there seemed to be no reason why the thing shouldn’t go on forever.”
670. There’s an on-going campaign to restore the Royal Court Theatre in Wigan (near Manchester) <www.royalcourttheatre.org.uk>. The 3,000-seat theater was open in 1886, and in 1903 Charlie Chaplin performed there as a teenager as Billy; that would have been with Charles Frohman’s North Company on tour with William Gillette’s “Sherlock Holmes” (with H. A. Saintsbury as Holmes and Fred Inwood as Watson).
671. When in Bialystok (in Poland): you can pay a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Pub <www.facebook.com/sherlock.bialystok>.
672. There seems to be an unlimited supply of Sherlockian action figures, and Jennie Paton has reported a new one, showing Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes, made by Pekkasland and available from AliExpress for \$13.64 <www.tinyurl.com/vkjg5gb>. Jennie also has noted a new set of plush soft toys of six characters (including Sherlock and Watson) from the “Sherlock Gnomes” film (£3.98) from Wisorkgoods <www.tinyurl.com/wsdefc4>
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673. Dec 19 #6 Karl E. Meyer (“Fritz von Waldbaum”) died on Dec. 22. He had a distinguished career in journalism, as a foreign correspondent and editorial writer for the Washington Post, as an editor and television critic for the Saturday Review, and then as an editor for the N.Y. Times and the Foreign Policy Review. He wrote stories about the Sherlockian birthday festivities for the N.Y. Times in 1986 and 2000, and went on to a distinguished career as an author, making sure that his *Tournament of Shadows: The Great Game and the Race for Empire in Central Asia* (1999) included Dr. John H. Watson in the index. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.
674. The conversion of Great Scotland Yard into a hotel (Jun 19 #6) is now complete, and the Great Scotland Yard Hotel is open for business. The Evening Standard had a nicely illustrated article about the new hotel on Dec. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/vbkt2yg>.
675. Jennie Paton reports a new Sherlockian teddy bear that is made by Hermann Spielwaren in Germany and is available from various Internet sellers; it’s more imaginative than others of its ilk in that there appears to be tobacco in the pipe, which one supposes could be rigged so that there’s a bit of smoke.
676. The January-February issue of Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of celebrating Sherlock Holmes’ birthday, with Sherlockian artwork by Erika Steiskal on the cover, a new and amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, an Ellery Queen pastiche by Josh Pachter with a Sherlockian pun as a title, a Sherlockian cartoon by Scott Masear, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.
677. The Holmes Hotel London (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) has been reviewed on-line by Business Traveller <www.tinyurl.com/wgwhzl6>; the hotel has been refurbished and brought up to date, still with nicely Sherlockian décor.
678. Correcting a typo (Nov 19 #1): registration is now open for the “Holmes in the Heartland” conference in St. Louis on July 24-26; more information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj>.
679. Thanks to author Hank Phillippi Ryan (who has written some fine, although non-Sherlockian) mysteries, here’s an iPhone secret: if you hold down the space bar, it acts like a mouse, and you can move to wherever you want to be in the message you’ve typed.
680. Roger Johnson has discovered a nice treat for those who want something to drink while reading this newsletter: an Australian wine called Skuttlebutt sold by Stella Bella Wines <www.stellabella.com.au>. There’s a 2017 Cabernet and a 2019 Sauvignon Blanc Semillon advertised at the company’s web-

- site, and it appears that you don't need to go to Australia to buy some: Little Peacock Importers <www.little-peacock.com> can tell you where it's sold in the U.S.
681. Jennie Paton has discovered a new audio production of "The Blue Carbuncle" from Redfield Arts Studio <www.redfieldartsaudio.com>, starring Mark Redfield as Sherlock Holmes, J. R. Lyston as Dr. Watson, and Carol Mason as Mrs. Hudson; it's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/sxcw6x>.
682. Dec 19 #7 The three latest volumes of The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories: Whatever Remains, edited by David Marcum, continue his excellent series of anthologies, this time presenting a wealth of traditional pastiches, with Holmes facing "ghosts and mythological creatures, impossible circumstances, and curses, possessions, and prophecies," in the stories, poetry, and radio scripts (London: MX Publishing, 2019; 383/419/380 pp., \$24.95 each); MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
683. Also: Sheldon Goldfarb's Sherlockian Musings (2019, 299 pp., \$16.95), is an interesting collection of the "musings" he prepared for meetings of the Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, by way of suggesting ideas for discussion of the Canon; it is nicely done, and will be helpful to other Sherlockian societies. The author offers samples of some of the essays at his web-site <www.sheldongoldfarb.wordpress.com>.
684. And: Richard T. Ryan's The Merchant of Menace (2019; 232 pp., \$16.95) is his fourth pastiche, pitting Holmes against a master criminal who specializes in stealing precious objects, eventually meeting his match with the Great Detective at Blenheim Palace. Kim Krisco's Irregular Lives: The Untold Story of Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars (2016; 356 pp., \$18.95) is set in 1919, when Holmes and Watson are invited to a mysterious exhibition of photographs that reconnect them with the young boys who helped them all those years ago, and they're all engaged in solving in a new mystery. Marcia Wilson's The Adventure of the Flying Blue Pigeon (2016; 274 pp., \$14.95), the first book in her "Test of the Professionals" series, is set in 1883 and offers an intriguing look at the world of Sherlock Holmes as seen by the Scotland Yarders (who include Lestrade, Gregson, and Bradstreet). And David Marcum's Sherlock Holmes: Tangled Skeins (2015; 241 pp., \$14.95) offers five pastiches set in London and in Sussex.
685. Karen Murdock has noted an imaginative coffee mug that's marked "Property of Diogenes Club/Comfortable Chairs/Latest Periodicals" and is available at Amazon UK <www.tinyurl.com/w3dfrmu> (£16.99).
686. The Lost World is in the news again, mentioned often in articles about a successful attempt to climb the 2,000-foot high prow of Guyana's Mount Roraima, credited by many as having inspired Conan Doyle when he wrote the story. Here's what the Daily Mail had to say: <www.tinyurl.com/r3k6rk7>.
687. The Sherlock Holmes Complete Puzzle Collection, with text and puzzles by Tim Dedopulus (London: Carlton Books, 2017; 400 pp., \$25.37), offers "over 200 devilishly difficult mysteries, inspired by the world's greatest detective." It's a reprint combining his The Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Collection (Feb 15 #1) and The Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Collection: The Lost Cases (Aug 19 #1), nicely bound and with attractive artwork.
688. The Cambridge Companion to Sherlock Holmes, edited by Janice M. Allan and Christopher Pittard (Cambridge University Press, 2019; 261 pp., \$19.99), is an anthology of excellent academic and readable essays that deal with a wide variety of aspects of the Canon, ending with Roberta Pearson's up-to-date and interesting discussion of "Sherlockian Fandom".
689. Dec 19 #8 At auction at Ahlers & Ogletree in Atlanta on Jan. 11: a copy of the Al Hirschfeld limited-edition colored lithograph "The Game's Afoot" (showing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson), estimated at \$800-\$1,200 <www.tinyurl.com/uwsjvw2>. Note: It's also still available from Margo Feiden Galleries <www.alhirschfeld.com> \$1,800.
690. Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled at the 2nd Stage Theatre in Fresno, Calif., Jan. 3-Feb. 23 <www.gcplayers.com>.
691. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the New Bern Civic Theatre in New Bern, N.C., Jan. 10-19 <www.newberncivictheatre.org>. Also at the Von Braun Center Playhouse in Huntsville, Ala., Jan. 17-25; web-site's at <www.theatrehsv.org>. Also at the Topeka Civic Theatre in Topeka, Kan., Jan. 17-Feb. 9 <www.topekacivictheatre.com>; and at the Stageworks Theatre in Houston, Texas, Jan. 17-Feb. 9 <www.stageworkshouston.org>.
692. Bart Lovins' "The Novel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four" will be performed at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., Jan. 16-26, 2020 <www.thepac.net>.
693. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is scheduled at the Burlington County Footlighters Theater in Cinnaminson, N.J., Jan 17-Feb. 1; web-site's at <www.bcfootlighters.com>.
694. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Waterville Opera House in Waterville, Maine, Jan. 24-Feb. 2 <www.operahouse.org>.
695. Craig Wichman's radio-theater dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" will be performed at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Mar. 13-14 and Oct. 30-Nov. 7 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.
696. "Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" (by Jamie Robledo) will be performed at the Sheldon Vexter Theater in San Antonio, Texas, May 7-31 <www.vexter.org>.
697. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is due at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, Mass., June 4-28 <www.greaterbostonstage.org>.
698. Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Waukesha Civic Theatre in Waukesha, Wis., June 4-21; their web-site's at <www.waukeshacivictheatre.org>.
699. R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" will be performed at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., June 21-Oct 18 <www.shawfest.com>.
700. "Sherlock and Cinders" (a musical written by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey) will be performed at the Carver Theatre in Stockport, Cheshire, July 3-4 <www.carvertheatre.co.uk>.
701. Jan 20 #1
702. Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 166th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 15 to 19; the (very) long weekend was filled with events, both formal and informal, and detailed reports on many if not most of them will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>. But in the meantime, here are few brief paragraphs to tide you over:
703. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Theodora Goss, an award-winning author of poetry, short stories, and novels in the fantasy genre (Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are characters in three novels about the Athena Club). On Friday the Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Emily Miranker proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to her mother, Cathy Miranker, as The Woman.
704. The annual dinner's agenda included the usual toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the "Wiggins" of the BSI) presented Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Mary Alcaro ("Ivy Douglas"), Frank Cho ("The Duke of Balmoral"), Walt Colby ("Neil Gibson"), Carlina de la Cova ("The Anthropological Journal"), Nancy Holder ("Beryl Garcia"), Freda Howlett ("The British Government"), Ken Ludwig ("Jack Stapleton"), David

- Richards ("Colonel Warburton's Madness"), and Jim Webb ("The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes in Japan"). And Andy Fusco received the prestigious Two-Shilling Award.
705. Mike Whelan ended the evening by handing over the gavel (and yes, there is a gavel) to Mike Kean, who as the new "Wiggins" then appointed Mike Whelan to the office of "Wiggins Emeritus". Mike Whelan has been head of the BSI for 23 years, and Mike Kean is only the sixth person to lead the BSI since it was founded by Christopher Morley in 1934.
706. Barbara Herbert reports that some of Paul's film posters and lobby cards will be available at Heritage Auctions on Mar. 21, including a poster and two lobby cards for Clive Brook's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929) and a poster for Basil Rathbone's "The Scarlet Claw" (1944). See them all at <www.tinyurl.com/r9jmyez>.
707. The next BSI annual dinner will be on Jan. 8, and the next Sherlock Holmes Society of London annual dinner presumably will be on Jan. 16.
708. Registration is not yet open for the next Baker Street Irregulars' conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., on July 17-19, 2020, but the best way to learn when registration does open is to sign up for free news from the BSI by e-mail at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>.
709. There are web-sites that monitor copyright's public domain. "The Sussex Vampire" and Conan Doyle's Memories and Adventures, which were published in The Strand Magazine in 1924, and Buster Keaton's film "Sherlock, Jr." (1924) are now in the public domain, as are "The Three Garridebs" and "The Illustrious Client" (published in Collier's in 1924).
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710. Jan 20 #2 VITA Digital Productions <www.myvitadvds.com> offers a series of Virtual Walks, Virtual Jogs, Virtual Bike Rides, and Virtual Cruises designed for use while exercising on treadmills, Nordic Tracks, indoor bikes, and other exercise equipment, and one of them is 60-minute Sherlock Holmes Virtual Walk (\$14.99 DVD/\$6.99 download) that takes you on a tour of sixteen filming locations used in the BBC's "Sherlock" series. There's no voice-over, but there's a "Footsteps" feature that pays closer attention to some of the filming locations. You can sample the Sherlock DVD at <www.sherlockwalk.com>.
711. It's not Sherlockian (so far) but: Willy Werby notes the existence of a personal computer ring that will play music, check your e-mail, give you alerts, and allow you to browse or chat with others. Who said that the future lies ahead? Seems to be here already.
712. When in Austria: you can pay a visit to Conan Doyle Gasse [Alley] in Feldkirch, where he studied at the Stella Matutina in 1875 (and first became an author. He edited and published the hand-written Feldkirchian Gazette (copies of two issues survive, owned by the British Library), and Marcus Geisser reports that last year the Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft joined the town in celebrating Conan Doyle's 160th birthday, unveiling a street sign. There's a report (with video) of the ceremony available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/r5jmfe8>; it's all in German, but Google Translate will help you read the report.
713. The Journal of Popular Culture's web-site has a paywall, so you might want to see if your local library has a subscription: Mattias Boström reports that the Dec. 2019 issue includes Mary Katherine Evan's interesting article "'The Name Is Sherlock Holmes, and the Address Is 221B Baker Street': Virtual Reality, Fan Communities, and Tourism".
714. Robert E. Thomalen ("The Three Garridebs") died on Dec. 5. He was an energetic member of the Three Garridebs of Westchester County, and beginning in 1982 he presided over many "Autumn in Baker Street" (and one "Springtime in Baker Street") conferences, which he explained combined "scholarship with friendship, emotion with reason, and explication with participation". In 1987 Bob was appointed "Cartwright" of the Baker Street Irregulars and he was awarded the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal when he retired in 1996; he received his Investiture in 1983, and the Two-Shilling Award in 1988. He was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog in 2007; you can listen to both parts of the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/v5lwpuu> and <www.tinyurl.com/vbjkf2c>. You can also read some nice tributes to Bob, sent by friends to Scott Monty's blog, at <www.tinyurl.com/rq9enud>.
715. The Royal Mail has announced that a new set of stamps honoring "Sherlock" will be issued on Aug. 18. No details available at the moment.
716. I've reported before (Feb 18 #2) on APOPO <www.apopo.org>, an organization that trains giant African pouched rats to detect unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off the mines, which can then be disarmed); the rats can also be trained to detect tuberculosis in mucous samples, and now they are in pursuit of smugglers who traffic in endangered species. Needless to say, APOPO welcomes donations from anyone who wants to adopt a giant rat.
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717. Jan 20 #3 "Cats" (Universal's film version of the 1981 Andrew Lloyd Webber musical that was adapted from T. S. Eliot's book Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats) has been in the works at least since 1990, and there's much to enjoy: Idris Elba is suitably malevolent as Macavity, and Ian McKellen is excellent as Gus the Theatre Cat (although the film, like the musical, omits the Canonical allusion in Eliot's poem). Savaged by the critics, the film's likely gone from theaters by the time you read this, but it's well worth watching on television or a DVD.
718. Now you can snuggle up with Holmes and Watson: Sidney Paget artwork is available in full color on a pillow case offered at CafePress <www.tinyurl.com/ql5d8u7>.
719. There's also a full "The Game Is Afoot" Langshan sheet set available from Roostery <www.tinyurl.com/wpayd3q> for sizes twin to king.
720. Lee Mendelson died on Dec. 25. He was a television producer, and in 1965 he persuaded Charles Schulz to write the animated special "A Charlie Brown Christmas", and went on to produce a long series of specials that included "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (1974), in which Woodstock's nest mysteriously disappears and Snoopy, in Sherlockian costume, plays detective in order to find it.
721. Gary Lovisi has been in business as Gryphon Books <www.gryphonbooks.com> for many years, offering a wide variety of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian material, and he has an interesting YouTube channel where you can view his visit to the Merchants Room (also known as Covent Garden West) during the birthday festivities <www.tinyurl.com/r7sd2bm> and an interview with collector and dealer Bob Hess <www.tinyurl.com/sz38bfr>.
722. The third issue of The Newspapers (it's an "Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana" edited by Greg Ruby for the Sherlockians of Baltimore) has been published, with 183 pp. of articles, toasts, and much more, many by members of the SOBs (\$23.00 postpaid). The focus is on material from Baltimore's newspapers, and about Baltimore, but Greg has cast his net widely, and includes William A. Walsh's report on "Harrison Schmitt: Bringing Holmes to the Moon" and Ira Brad Matetsky's article about "Rex Stout at the BSI Dinners". Available at <www.tinyurl.com/y4fe2zv> and from Greg D. Ruby, 2400 Boston Street #102, Baltimore, MD 21224.
723. Greg also has published a detailed and colorful exploration of The Numismatic Edgar Allan Poe (160 pp., \$50.00 cloth/\$25.00 paper postpaid), discussing Conan Doyle's admiration for Poe in the introduction, reprinting Arthur S. Chapman's 1905 pastiche "The Unmasking of Sherlock Holmes", and including a nicely Sherlockian touch in Jeff Decker's back-cover artwork <www.tinyurl.com/rxswmq7>.

724. Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which was briefly on hiatus and now is open at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, S.C., through Apr. 19 <www.scmuseum.org>.
725. The exhibition was created by the Exhibits Development Group, and there's an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display. And you can plan ahead: the exhibition's due at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 1, 2021, through Mar. 21, 2022.
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726. Jan 20 #4 It's getting more and more difficult to find places where one can smoke cigars and cigarettes, but there still are cigar and cigarette cards being made (as trading cards): the Acheron Mint is offering a set of seventeen "Sherlock Holmes Moriarty Conan Doyle Irene Adler Lost World" trading cards at eBay (\$14.95); sixteen characters cards plus one card randomly selected from nine other cards. You can see them all at <www.tinyurl.com/txf13qg>.
727. Alexander Orlov has reported his discovery at the Polish web-site Culture a fascinating article by Igor Belov that translates as "Elementary Watson: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Poland" <www.tinyurl.com/wj3hpom>; he offers a details discussion of Poland in the Canon and of Polish Sherlockiana. It's all in Russian, but Google Translate will be of assistance.
728. "Everything you've heard is true" was the slogan used to advertise Sherlock 2 for Apple's Mac OS 9 operating system. Named in honor of Sherlock Holmes, Sherlock was a file and web search tool that was officially retired and removed from Mac's operating systems when OS X 10.5 was released in 2007. But you can still buy the poster from The Missing Bite <www.tinyurl.com/sxor3lf> for \$29.95. And there's more to the story: according to Wikipedia, advocates of Watson, made by Karelia Software, claimed that Apple copied their product without permission, compensation, or attribution in producing Sherlock 3. The phenomenon of Apple releasing a feature that supplants or obviates third-party software is so well known that being "Sherlocked" has become an accepted term used within the Mac and IOS developer community.
729. For the true fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" series: SamsXStitch offers colorful 18-count cross-stitch patterns showing Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman as Dr. Watson (\$3.99 each) at their shop at Etsy <www.etsy.com/shop/SamsXStitch>.
730. Vicki Delany's *There's a Murder Afoot* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2020; 329 pp., \$26.99) is the fifth in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the Sherlock Holmes bookshop on Cape Cod) and her friend Jayne Wilson (who manages the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room). The pastiche brings Gemma and Jane and their friends to London for a Sherlock Holmes conference, where they encounter a murder and other goings-on. The author has more than one series going, and her web-site's at <www.vickidelany.com>.
731. Terry Jones died on Jan. 21. He was a charter member of the Monty Python comedy team, and he had a long career as an actor and director, and as an author, and once said that his "big hero" was Buster Keaton, "because he made comedy look beautiful."
732. There were many new books available in the Merchants Room on Saturday during the birthday festivities, but (for various reasons) there hasn't been sufficient time to read and review them. Three new titles from the Baker Street Irregulars Press are listed at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>; you can click on [bsi books]. The Wessex Press has *The Annotated White Company* and the fifth volume of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the *Newspapers*; they're at <www.wessexpress.com>. Stay tuned.
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733. Jan 20 #5 Ralph Earle II ("Joyce Cummings") died on Jan. 13. He practiced law in Philadelphia and was a member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, and began a new career in government in 1968, when he was appointed a Pentagon aide for international security affairs; he went on to serve President Carter as chief negotiator for the second round of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, with the rank of ambassador. He briefly led the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, returning as its deputy director in 1994, and retired in 1999. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1968.
734. Jennie Paton has spotted a Sherlock Holmes perfume (the fragrance features tobacco, smoke, leather, woodsy notes, moss, and citrus) created by Ali Habibi and available in Tehran <www.ayliperfumes.com/product/sherlock-holmes> (possibly only in Iran)
735. "221b Baker Street: The Board Game Classic" (the most recent version of the board game designed by Jim Moriarty and first issued by Antler Productions in 1975) now has a Deluxe Edition, available from the John N. Hansen Company, offering 200 cases (including 20 new ones); the company boasts that more than 3 million copies have been sold worldwide. It's advertised for \$38.49 (at Target), and at higher prices elsewhere, and it may be the oldest Sherlockian board game still in production.
736. Sherlockians are indebted to Twentieth Century-Fox, the movie studio that gave us Basil Rathbone's landmark "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1939, and it's a bit sad to learn there will be no more films from the studio, at least under that name; it was bought last year by the Walt Disney Studios, and according to *Variety* (Jan. 17), "the mouse has officially killed the fox." The new name will be 20th Century Studios for the company (*Variety* quoted "an insider" as saying, "I think the Fox name means Murdoch, and that is toxic.")
737. Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" is one of the on-line features of Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine*; it appears monthly, and his January blog at <www.tinyurl.com/yxx8upzs> is the first of a two-part essay "Finding Sherlock" (the second part will appear in February); the EQMM web-site is well worth exploring.
738. "Dracula" (the three-episode television series created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat) premiered on BBC One on Jan. 1, and on Netflix on Jan. 4, and fans in Britain were quick to observe a nod to "Sherlock" in the first episode, when Sister Agatha tells Jonathan Harker that "I have a detective acquaintance in London." According to a report in *Radio Times* (Jan. 1), after a screening of the episode, Moffat said that "I thought no one would get that," and Gatiss joked, "Really, it's Sexton Blake. We're just messing with you." *Radio Times* also noted <www.tinyurl.com/78sdrbp> that they had explained previously how their "Dracula" was inspired by their work on "Sherlock".
739. If you're old enough to remember "Pac Man" you're surely aware that computer games today are not as primitive as they once were. "Sherlock Holmes Game Evolution 1984-2019" is an interesting 14-minute video noted by Jennie Paton that shows just how much more realistic computer games are now <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nWRDAhEgQU>.
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740. Jan 20 #6 Jim Lehrer died on Jan. 23. A lifelong journalist, first on newspapers and then on public television, he covered the Watergate hearings, presided over a dozen presidential debates, and helped to create a long-running one-hour news broadcast. In Mar. 1990 (when he was associate editor of the "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour") he wrote an instructive one-page essay for the *Smithsonian* magazine on the pleasures of collecting (describing himself as a world-class collector of bus depot signs and other memorabilia), and he offered a suggestion that many Sherlockians will agree with: collectors are not odd, he said, "we are merely possessed with a need to collect certain things that some people might consider odd."
741. Peter Melonas is a creative designer and illustrator who has been offering Sherlockiana at least since the 1980s; you can see his latest merchandise at <www.society6.com/fancifullart>.

742. Hugh Ashton's *Some Cases of Mr. Sherlock Holmes Occurring in the Year 1894* (Lichfield: j-views. 2018; 161 pp., \$8.99) offers six pastiches revealing what happened in some of the unrecorded cases; it's the latest in a long list of collections of his pastiches <www.hughashtonbooks.com>.
743. James Gunn's appreciative and amusing tribute to "Asimov at 100" appeared in the Jan. 3 issue of *Science* <www.tinyurl.com/smcqjap>, mentioning Isaac Asimov's membership in the Baker Street Irregulars.
744. Further to the item (Dec 19 #5) about the Red-Headed League Public House in Lebanon (Pennsylvania), and owner Michael Kapp's belief that the name of the restaurant pays tribute to the story that was inspired by a notorious murder committed by the Blue-Eyed Six in Lebanon in 1878, Gary Ludwig's 36-page pamphlet *The Blue Eyed Six: A Historical Narrative* (Lebanon: Hodge Podge Press, 2004; \$13.95) offers a detailed account of the gang's crime and punishment. There's more about the book, and the author, at the web-site <www.hodgepodgeusa.com>.
745. When in Chile: Willis Frick reports the Café Sherlock in Puerto Montt; no web-site, but they do have a page at Facebook [sherlock puerto montt].
746. "The Game Is Never Over" is convention planned to celebrate "10 years of Sherlock" (that's the BBC series) scheduled for Nov. 19-22 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Phoenixville, Pa. <www.thegameisneverover.com>.
747. 2020 will be a "Year of Mystery" in Bennington, Vt., planned by two local libraries and the Baker Street Breakfast Club, and of course the schedule includes Sherlockian events. You can see a video in which Sally Sugarman talks about the Sherlockian aspects at <www.vimeo.com/38715504>.
748. Steve Mason has been creating sets of puzzles (crossword, criss cross, and word search) for each of the stories, and is now making them available at the web-site of the Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com>; click on [the crossword puzzles of sherlock holmes]. They will be of interest to young readers, the target audience of the society, and perhaps to their elders.
749. Steve also posts a continuing series of amusing "Baker Street Elementary" comic strips (co-authored with his son Rusty and Joe Fay) at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star. Annual compilations since 2005, and three comic books, can be read (and downloaded) at the society's web-site <www.dfw-sherlock.org>; click on [ephemera--general stuff].
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750. Jan 20 #7 It was H. R. F. Keating, in *Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His World* (1979), who explained that the "modern Belgian masters" whose pictures entirely absorbed Sherlock Holmes (noted in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") were the members of the XX Group. James Ensor was one of them, and Christie's offers an interesting (and colorfully illustrated) guide to Ensor and his work online at <www.tinyurl.com/s3s54dt>.
751. The Literary Gift Company <www.theliterarygiftcompany.com> offers attractive Hound of the Baskervilles bracelets, and Holmes & Watson earrings and cufflinks, hand-crafted from "rescued" copies of the Canon.
752. Paul Reffell died on Jan. 3. He was member of the Petaluma Radio Players for many years, and was excellent as Dr. Watson in five episodes of Vince Staddon's amusing "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes"; you can hear him as Watson at <www.petalumaradioplayers.com>; click on podcast].
753. Max Allan Collins' *The History of Mystery* (Collectors Press, 2001) offers a 196-page colorful tour of detective stories and film noir, as shown in cover art for pulp magazines, books, DVD jackets, and film posters; Sherlock Holmes is included early on, but the emphasis is on later work whose artwork featured comely ladies undressed or in peril, or both. It's out of print, but readily available at eBay and elsewhere.
754. Bradley Harper's *Queen's Gambit* (Jersey City: Seventh Street Books, 2019; 282 pp., \$15.95) is the second in his series about Margaret Harkness, who is again involved with Arthur Conan Doyle and Joseph Bella and is working to foil a plot against Queen Victoria; as with *A Knife in the Fog* (Oct 18 #5), the story's nicely told, and the characters well drawn. The author's colorful Fantastic Fiction page is at <www.fantasticfiction.com>.
755. 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).
756. Karen Murdock notes a report in *Scotland on Sunday* (Jan. 25) that Dr. Joseph Bell's former Georgian townhouse at 22 St. Andrew Square in Edinburgh has just opened as a hotel; Conan Doyle, while a medical student, worked as a clerk for Bell, and paid tribute to him as an inspiration for Sherlock Holmes. The paper's reviewer gave high marks to the hotel's restaurant/bistro, and there's more information at the Malmaison Hotel's web-site at <www.malmaison.com/locations/edinburgh-city>.
757. The Holmes Hotel London (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) has been reviewed on-line by the Handbook <www.tinyurl.com/uh4zwbw>; the review includes a challenge from the hotel: solve "the barber shop mystery."
758. Further to the report (Oct 19 #2) about the imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká <www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2> of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, the garden will be open to the public the evening of June 25; details at <www.tinyurl.com/sarp8pj>.
759. Jan 20 #8 In her latest "News & Nonsense" newsletter, Laurie R. King describes the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars as "a room full of tux-clad men and sequin-bedecked women, raising their glasses and singing silly-ditties" such as "We Never Mention Aunt Clara", and provides a link to White Ghost Shivers singing the song at the Saxon Pub in Austin, Texas, on Apr. 21, 2012 <www.tinyurl.com/s3fpod2>. According to Wikipedia, White Ghost Shivers is an "eclectic American band" that was declared to be "Best None of the Above" at the Austin Music Awards in 2005 and 2007.
760. Laurie also notes that Mrs. Hudson's given name is Clara (as revealed in an earlier "Mary Russell" novel, adding that "of course, we all know how much trouble she got into, back in her youth." A search for the title of the song at YouTube will bring up some interesting renditions in addition to the White Ghost Shivers recording.
761. Donald Tosh died on Dec. 3. He had a long career with the BBC, helping to develop their series "Coronation Street" and working as a story editor on "Doctor Who"; he also dramatized "Shoscombe Old Place" (1968) for the series that starred Peter Cushing.
762. Spotted by Dan Stashower: Nigel J. Hayler's imaginative *Read+Doodle Book 1* (Lancaster: Pocket Doodle Reads, 2018; 52 pp., \$12.80); "A Case of Identity" is one of four stories in the book, all with text, doodling hints, and pages to color <www.doodlereads.com>.
763. Jennie Paton spotted an attractive and imaginative teaser for a new French graphic novel "Dans la tête de Sherlock Holmes" <www.vimeo.com/387129370>; the first of two volumes will be published in May, and you can order from the Ankama Shop <www.ankama-shop.com>.
764. And some theater news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is being produced at the Strauss Theatre Center in Monroe, La., through Feb. 8 <www.strausstc.com>. It's also due at the Longwood University Theatre in Farmville, Va., Apr. 15-19 <www.tinyurl.com/wjhkym7>.
765. Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" is on at the Mesquite Community Theatre in Mesquite, Nev., through Feb. 15 <www.mctnv.com>.
766. Tom Hitchcock's "Sherlock Holmes and the Seven Wooden Figurines" will be performed at the Manifest Theatre in Manningtree, Essex, Feb. 27-29; web-site's at <www.manifesttheatre.co.uk>.
767. "Sherlock Holmes the Musical" will be performed by the Spring-Time Experimental Theatre (in Cantonese) at the Tuen Mun Town Hall in Hong Kong, Mar. 27-28 <www.springtime.com.hk>.

768. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at Steeltown Coffee & Tea in Pittsburg, Calif., Aug. 14-23 <www.pittsburgcalifornia.com>.
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769. Feb 20 #1 Last year's Baker Street Irregulars Press and the BSI Trust Book Fair was a rousing success; this year's event will be expanded to include an Open House at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., where you will be able to see his delightful recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street. Mark your calendar for May 17, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, when you'll be able to do more than just see the sitting-room: visitors will be welcome to enter the room for hands-on inspection of its contents. The book fair will offer thousands of books and other Sherlockiana, at rock-bottom prices. Lunch will be available, and Denny's home is at 5003 Stony Run Drive in Reading (100 miles from Manhattan, 80 miles from Baltimore, and 40 miles from Philadelphia, and he suggests that you start planning your car pool). Additional information is available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. There's a nice image of Denny's sitting-room at <www.tinyurl.com/rkojoza>.
770. The Worst Man in London (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2019; 186 pp., \$39.95), edited by Daniel Stashower and Constantine Rossakis, is the latest volume in the BSI's manuscript series, and it's a grand way to get as close as one can to the writing of "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton"; there's a facsimile and a transcript of the manuscript, and scholarly essays by Randall Stock (on the manuscript and its history), Carla Coupe (on the illustrators of the story), Russell Merritt (on television adaptation), Jonathan McCafferty (on the villainous Charles Augustus Howell), and many others. It's recommended, and available from the publisher at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.
771. And there's more: the latest in the professional series is Education Never Ends: Educators, Education, and the Sherlockian Canon (2019; 210 pp., \$39.95), edited by Marino C. Alvarez and Timothy S. Greer, with an excellent and wide-ranging assortment of scholarly articles.
772. Also from the BSI: Upon the Turf: Horse Racing and the Sherlockian Canon, edited by Candace J. Lewis, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Roger Downey (2019; 203 pp., \$25.95), discusses horses, horse racing, gambling, and related topics such as horses named from Conan Doyle's stories. By nice coincidence, the current audio interview at Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog is devoted to the book <www.tinyurl.com/rw3n8yg>
773. "A Mountaineer Named Sherlock" is the title of the inaugural West Virginia University Symposium on Sherlock Holmes, on Mar. 20-21 Morgantown, W.Va.; the registration deadline is Mar. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/rnootvg>.
774. You can "tour the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes at the South Carolina State Museum" in Columbia, S.C., in a colorful video spotted by Jennie Paton at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvclRWpXT4>; the exhibition runs through Apr. 19 <www.scmuseum.org> (Jan 20 #3).
775. Bob Loomis' Houdini's Final Incredible Secret (CreateSpace, 2016; 323 pp., \$13.00) is subtitled "how Houdini mystified Sherlock Holmes creator," and the author has devoted an entire book to his research on the "slate test" that Houdini performed for Conan Doyle when he visited Houdini's home in New York in the 1920s; you can decide for yourself whether Loomis actually has solved the mystery.
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776. Feb 20 #2 Ashley D. Polasek's imaginative Being Sherlock: A Sherlockian's Stroll Through the Sherlock Holmes Stories (Guilford: Lyons Press, 2019; 430 pp., \$26.95), offers ten short stories and "The Hound of the Baskervilles", each with entertaining and insightful introductions that explain her choices and provide insights for readers old and new; it is a grand and up-to-date approach to the Canon.
777. Freda Howlett ("The British Government") died on Feb. 15, aged 101. She was the last of the founders of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, was one of its most enthusiastic members, and was its president from 2003 to 2009. Freda received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2020
778. Just the thing for Sherlockian pipe-smokers (if there are any left in this "thanks for not smoking" era): the "Vape Pipe Battery Sherlock Style" (if looks just like a regular pipe "so you can smoke discreetly without anyone being the wiser!") advertised by This Is Why I'm Broke for (\$19.99) <www.tinyurl.com/vptaegh>.
779. Conan Doyle called the novel "the best thing I have ever done," and it has never been out of print since it was published in 1891. Now you can read The Annotated White Company and see for yourself how good he was at writing historical novels; it's annotated and introduced by Doug Elliott and Roy Pilot, with a foreword by Nicholas Meyer (who, like John Ford, wanted to make a film based on the novel), and black-and-white illustrations by George Willis Bardwell (from the second American edition) and color illustrations by N. C. Wyeth (from a later American edition). There also are 14 appendices that offer more information about the author, his notebooks and manuscript, and life in the 14th century; it's nicely done indeed, and recommended (Indianapolis: Wessex Press, 2020, 410 pp., \$48.95). The publisher's web-site is at <www.wessexpress.com>.
780. Also from the Wessex Press: The Sherlock Holmes Review: Anthology Volume One 1986-1987 (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2020; 131 pp., \$27.95) is a welcome reprint of Steven T. Doyle's journal, published at a time when almost anything Sherlockian had a limited circulation; if you weren't a subscriber, here's an opportunity to read contributions from Jeremy Brett and Peter Cushing, and Sherlockians who included Stafford Davis, Jack Tracy, Al Rodin, Jack Key, Don Yates, Roger Johnson, and of course Steve himself.
781. And there's Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 5, July-September 1894, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström, Mark Alberstat, and Leah Guinn (2020; 204 pp., \$36.95); the first volume in the series from Gasogene Books covered 1881-1892, the next three volumes covered six months each, and now it's three months, which show just how much more reporting there was in the press about his books, travel plans, and play "A Story of Waterloo".
782. Finally, The Milvertonians of Hampstead: Forgotten Writings from the Worst Men in London, introduced, collated, and edited by Nicholas Utechin (2020; 130 pp., \$18.95), is the story of the first scion society of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and it's a grand story indeed, painstakingly researched delightfully told, and reprinting for the first time the excruciatingly rare publications of the society.
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783. Feb 20 #3 Andrew Lycett's Conan Doyle's Wide World: Sherlock Holmes and Beyond (London: Tauris Parke, 2020; 327 pp., £20.00) is a delightful presentation of Conan Doyle's expertise as a travel writer; Lycett, author of an impressive biography of Conan Doyle (Sep 07 #6), offers an excellent selection from his fiction (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), articles, and essays, all nicely showing how well Conan Doyle was able to give his readers a proper sense of place. An American edition is due in April.
784. Mystery writer Duffy Brown may well own the world's largest Sherlockian teddy bear: her "Sherlock" is seven feet tall and she wrote about him in February in an "At the Scene" blog of Mystery Scene magazine <www.tinyurl.com/rlnskk3>.
785. Kirk Douglas died on Feb. 5. He began his acting career on Broadway in 1941 and soon moved to films, appearing in more than 80 movies, with a starring role in "Spartacus" (1960). He received the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1991, and an honorary Oscar in 1996. Like many famous American actors, Douglas appeared in television commercials that were seen only outside the United States; you can see him in Sherlockian costume, advertising Maxim coffee in Japan, at Greg Ruby's "Fourth Garrideb" web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/vbkd7sx>.

786. The Conan Doyle Review, due in the spring of 2021, is described as “an interdisciplinary journal for scholarship on the life, works, creative afterlives, and cultural legacies of Arthur Conan Doyle,” and it will be edited by Ashley D. Polasek, Kate Bromley, and Mary M. Alcaro; a Special Is-sue 1, available during the birthday festivities, offered 16 pages devoted to Ken Ludwig and his Sherlockian plays (including his upcoming “Moriarty”), and the Review itself should be interesting indeed.
787. Sorry about that: Donald Tosh, who died on Dec. 3 (Jan 20 #8) helped develop the television series “Coronation Street” for Granada; it was, and still is, broadcast by ITV. The series debuted in 1960, and will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.
788. Registration is now open for the seventh “Holmes, Doyle, & Friends” gathering on Mar. 27-28 in Englewood, Ohio; details are available at the web-site of the Agra Treasurers <www.agratreasurers.net>.
789. Orson Bean died on Feb. 7. He had a long career as a magician, stand-up comedian, and actor, on stage, screen, and television (where he became a fixture on game shows); he played Colonel Sebastian Moran/Sir Charles/Dr. Grimsby Roylott/Professor Moriarty in Susan L. Seder’s play “The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes” in Lancaster, Pa., in 1988.
790. A letter written by Conan Doyle in 1901 was found under the floorboards in one of the rooms in the Sherlock Art Hotel in Riga, Latvia, according to a story reported by Karen Murdock in the Daily Mail (Feb. 8). The boutique hotel’s web-site tells more at <www.sherlock.lv/en/our-legendeng>, but you need not rush to make a reservation: Alexander Orlov queried the hotel and was told that there is no letter, and that the story was just an invention intended to generate publicity.
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791. Feb 20 #4 A Plum Assignment: Discourses on P. G. Wodehouse and His World (Bensonberg: Winch and Clutterbuck, 2018; 183 pp., \$16.95), by Curtis Armstrong and Elliott Milstein, is a collection of their papers and toasts presented at Wodehouse conventions and published in Wodehouse journals, edited by Ashley D. Polasek; there are occasional allusions to Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, and the book provides an interesting look at a Wodehousean world that can be as strange as that of Sherlockians. If you would like to see what all the fuss is about, Denny Dobry has a sales-list of Wodehouse’s books that are being sold at quite reasonable prices by way of benefiting the Baker Street Irregulars Trust <dendobry@ptd.net>.
792. Reported: Measure of Malice: Scientific Detection Stories, edited by Martin Edwards (Naperville, Poisoned Pen Press, 2018; 336 pp., \$14.99) is the latest in the long-running series of “British Library Crime Classics” and it includes “The Boscombe Valley Mystery”.
793. Randall Stock has noted an article in Fine Books & Collections (Feb. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/tb2cubf> about an exhibition at the Old Bodleian Library in Oxford through Mar. 15: “From Studio to Selfie” displays photographs of authors, including one of Conan Doyle disguised as Professor Challenger. The photograph (which was the frontispiece in the 1912 first edition of The Lost World) is in a case displaying “Masks, disguises, and riddles” (in a bound volume of The Strand Magazine), which you can see at <www.tinyurl.com/uakqcrh> (at the right, in the sixth image).
794. AbeBooks is far more than a web-site used by book dealers and collectors: there’s also a podcast called “Behind the Bookshelves”; on Feb. 20 there was a 22-minute interview (“Sherlockians”) with Richard Davies interviewing Denny Dobry about the Beacon Society and the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and the Sherlockians <www.tinyurl.com/u6knws3>.
795. Noel Murphy’s interesting column in the Geelong Advertiser on Feb. 10 mentioned local architect/lecturer Derham Groves (first Australian member of the Baker Street Irregulars) and another “Geelong bloke,” George Morrison, who “had a New Guinea native’s spearhead surgically removed from his arse” by Scottish surgeon Joseph Bell, who was credited by Conan Doyle as having been the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes.
796. According to Wikipedia, George Ernest “Chinese” Morrison had a thoroughly interesting and colorful life <www.tinyurl.com/r66hxtpt>; the story of the spearhead is different at Wikipedia, both for its location and the name of the surgeon who removed it. And just to complicate things, Derham reports that Cyril Pearl, in Morrison of Peking (1967) says that “Chiene, assisted by Bell, and with sixteen other surgeons watching,” operated on Morrison.
797. The list of members of the Baker Street Irregulars who have acted in films and on television can now be expanded to include music videos: there’s now a video that promotes Pokey LaFarge’s album “Rock Bottom Rhapsody” (due in April), and you can read all about it, and see the video, in an article in Rolling Stone (Jan. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/uylfoxj>. The video was shot in Randsburg, Calif., home of Jennie C. Paton, who reports that she appears in the video about a dozen times (and dares you to find her).
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798. Feb 20 #5 Further to the report (Sep 19 #7) about the exhibition “In the Company of Harold Prince” (at the N.Y. Public Library for the Performing Arts through Mar. 31 <www.tinyurl.com/y3dwsfax>, Greg Darak reports that there’s an interactive screen that allows you to scroll through the prompt-book and the script of the musical “Baker Street” (which Prince directed). There also are multiple photographs from the show, illustrating almost every page of the script, and a television commercial (possibly the first television commercial for a Broadway musical).
799. Alexander Orlov notes that the National Library of Scotland offers on-line access to digitized material <www.digital.nls.uk>. A search for [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle] turns up interesting material, including theater programs and post office directories.
800. Welcome to the Year of the Giant Rat (or, according to the U.S. Postal Service, the Year of the Rat, which started on Jan. 25 (that’s the Chinese Lunar New Year)).
801. Karen Murdock noted a story in the Washington Examiner (Feb. 6) on the appointment of Dame Karen Pierce as the next British ambassador to Washington. She has been Britain’s permanent representative to the United Nations, where she battled head-to-head with Russian ambassador Vasily Nebenzya in an exchange about the nerve-agent attack in Britain. Nebenzya said that Russia should be involved in the investigation, and she replied that “allowing Russian scientists into an investigation when they are the most likely perpetrators of the crime in Salisbury would be like Scotland Yard inviting in Professor Moriarty.”
802. Jennie Paton has noted The Literary Tea Company, which offers a wide range of Sherlockian teas, caddies, and infusers <www.tinyurl.com/rj8kpkn>; they offer merchandise honoring other authors and characters, in case you have non-Sherlockian friends.
803. Will Thomas’ Blood Is Blood (New York: Minotaur, 2018; 320 pp., \$27.00) is the tenth in his series featuring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes’ rival in “The Retired Colourman”) and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn; it has an explosive beginning and a challenging mystery, and the characters, who include Barker’s long-lost brother, are nicely done. The author has a web-site at <www.willthomasauthor.com>.
804. Titan Comics is continuing its series of manga adaptations of the BBC television series “Sherlock” (with artwork by Jay); “A Scandal in Belgravia” is due in July, and you can see the cover and samples of the interior art-work at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/rnrtdwn>.
805. For the ladies: Howard Ostrom has noted Miss Patina, who offers a Holmes trench coat <www.misspatina.com/product/holmes-trench-coat-tall> and other items in two Sherlock Holmes Inspired Collections; search for [holmes].
806. The Swedish Film Institute <www.filmarkivet.se> has a nice web-site (click on the British flag for text in English); search for [sherlock holmes] to see an amusing television commercial from 1960, and on [conan doyle] for film of him arriving in Stockholm in 1929.
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807. Feb 20 #6 There's yet another Sherlock Holmes pub, but it's not open to just anyone: according to a report in the East Anglian Daily Times on Feb. 7, spotted by Karen Murdock, the pub's at Glastonbury Court, a care home in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, that provides quality dementia care for older people; there's a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/wlmax9g>.
808. And now for some theatrical news: Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" is due in Southampton, N.Y., on Mar. 6-22 <www.sc-arts.org>.
809. Emily Pruna's "Hark! How the Bells" will be performed during the Sherlock Holmes Weekends in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 13-15, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, and Nov. 6-8 <www.capemaymac.org/sherlock-holmes-weekend>. The East Lynn Theatre Company will perform Craig Wichman's radio play "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" during each weekend.
810. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Way Off Broadway Dinner Theatre in Frederick, Md., Mar. 13-Apr 25 <www.wayoffbroadway.com>.
811. Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Schwartz Center for the Arts in Dover, Del., Mar. 14-15; tickets at <www.eventbrite.com/e/sherlock-holmes-play-tickets-92036540711>.
812. Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, Ga., Mar. 27-29 <www.tinyurl.com/vqnxgvf>.
813. Noveltease will perform a burlesque of "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes" Mar. 27-28 in the Auditorium at U-Heights in Seattle, Wash., on Mar. 27-28 <www.novelteasetheater.org>.
814. Brit Ward's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Sinister Trio" will be performed at the Totah Theatre in Farmington, N.M., Apr. 17-26; their Facebook page is at <www.facebook.com/TEAcommunitytheatre>.
815. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be presented by the Long Island Repertory Company in Saint James, N.Y., Apr. 18-May 3 <www.facebook.com/pg/longislandrep/posts>.
816. Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the East Riding Theatre in Beverley, Yorks., Apr. 23-May 16 <www.eastridingtheatre.co.uk>.
817. Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is scheduled at the Cary Arts Center in Cary, N.C., May 15-17 <www.townofcary.org>.
818. Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" is also due at the Heisler Theater in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., May 21-24 <www.heislertheater.com>.
819. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" is scheduled at People's Light in Malvern, Pa., Aug. 4-29, 2021 <www.peopleslight.org>.
820. Mar 20 #1 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web-site is recommended as the best source for helpful and reliable information about COVID-19 and what to do about the current pandemic, and for what we do and don't (yet) know about the novel coronavirus <www.tinyurl.com/sx5yfuv>. The CDC also tells you why they use the term COVID-19. If you scroll down, at the lower left there's a way to subscribe to e-mail updates. It's not the CDC's advice, but: "keep washing your hands, and family and friends."
821. Of course, it's nice indeed that reading is a grand way to deal with self-quarantine. Bookshops in the DMV (that's the local abbreviation for DC/MD/VA) are helping <www.tinyurl.com/wd8poss>, and Mental Floss reported on Mar. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/uwccm5d> on one bookshop's imaginative response to the situation. Bill Seil has forwarded an interesting report from Penguin Books about "how Britain's independent bookshops are rallying to help readers during the coronavirus crisis" <www.tinyurl.com/vbvkuig>.
822. Herewith a reminder that the very best way to receive news about the Baker Irregulars' events and publications is to sign up for free e-mail messages from the BSI at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email>. For information about other Sherlockian events, the Sherlockian Calendar maintained by Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie <www.sherlockiancalendar.com> is a valuable resource; you can contact Ron <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have meeting or conference listed.
823. The most recent news from the Baker Street Irregulars is that the "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" conference scheduled at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, N.Y., has been rescheduled to June 25-27, 2021; registration is expected to open by early April 2021. There's a revised web-site, with a colorful map <www.tinyurl.com/udu3vjx>.
824. There are some Sherlockian events scheduled a few months ahead that have not been cancelled or postponed, one of them the Book Fair and Open House at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., on May 17 (Feb 20 #1). Additional information is available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>.
825. The *Baker Street Almanac 2020*, modestly described by editor Ross E. Davies as "an annual capsule of a timeless past and future," is now available on-line (without charge) at <www.tinyurl.com/rufssb3>, and in print (\$30.00 postpaid from The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015) with more than 360 pages of news and gossip about some of the interesting events in the Sherlockian and Holmesian world in 2019, "The Cardboard Box" (presented with "extravagant Canonical annotation"), and a wide variety of scholarship and pseudo-scholarship. Ross promises some "amusing extras" in the print edition, perhaps for the benefit of those who prefer to turn pages, rather than scroll.
826. Dean Clark has reported an interesting article on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Adventure of the Boer War" posted on-line at History Today on Feb. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/vw8o22b> and notable for an attractive illustration by H. M. Paget; Henry Marriott Paget was Sidney Paget's brother.
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827. Mar 20 #2 Alexander Orlov has reported seeing Vladimir Putin as Sherlock Holmes, and Dmitri Peskov as Dr. Watson, unraveling the case of journalist Ivan Golunov in an animated (and amusing) "news report" in Russian on the German television channel Deutsche Welle. Pesko is press secretary for Russian president Putin, and the video is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/s68be3o>.
828. "Meet Maggie Schpak" is the title of an informative and interesting post to Greg Ruby's "The Fourth Garrideb" blog <www.tinyurl.com/ty56jfi>; Maggie is investitured in the Baker Street Irregulars is "The Soup Plate Medal" and has had a long career as a designer of medals and other artifacts for films and television, and for Sherlockian societies (and the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's raffle during the birthday festivities in New York each January).
829. Will Thomas' *Lethal Pursuit* (New York: Minotaur, 2019; 308 pp., \$27.99) is the eleventh in his series starring private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant (now partner) Thomas Llewelyn, who also now is married but still hard at work; there is an intriguing mystery that involves secret societies as well as domestic and foreign intrigue, and as in earlier books in the series, the characters, both principal and supporting are interesting. The author has a web-site at <www.willthomasauthor.com>.
830. German illustrator Romy Blümel's artwork was used by The New Yorker last November for a flash sale of subscriptions to the magazine, promising a free tote bag to new subscribers. Alas, the Sherlockian dachshund was used only in the advertisement, and did not appear on the free tote bag.

831. James Lipton died on Mar. 1. After a long career in show business, he was invited to join the board of directors of the Actos Studio workshop, and in 1994 created the “Inside the Actors Studio” television series for Bravo. He also wrote *An Exaltation of Larks* (1968), an exploration of “the venereal game” (which is not quite what you may be imagining at the moment); it’s a delightful exploration of collective nouns, and he quotes at length from Conan Doyle’s *Sir Nigel* in which young Nigel demonstrates his knowledge of such things as a cete of badgers and a skulk of foxes. The book has been revised and expanded, most recently in 1991, to include new coinages, and it’s great fun indeed.
832. “A Billion-Dollar Scandal Turns the ‘King of Manuscripts’ into the ‘Madoff of France’” was the headline on a story in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 21) about a literary Ponzi scheme perpetrated by Gérard Lhéritier, who bought rare manuscripts and letters, had them appraised, and sold shares in them, and promised to buy the shares back in five years for at least 40 percent over the original price. The appraisals were greatly inflated, and the company refused to buy back the shares; Lhéritier was arrested and is now free on \$2.1 million in bail, and the French government has begun to auction off the company’s assets. The story is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/w3uh42m>.
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833. Mar 20 #3 Dean Clark notes that the only copy of the unpublished memoirs of Nigel Bruce is held by his daughter Pauline Page, who was interviewed some years ago by Nicholas Utechin, who published extracts in the winter 1999 issue of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal*. For those who don’t have access to that issue of the SHJ, Dean reports that Stuart Fanning has posted (with permission) some of the extracts at the Scarlet Street Forums on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/sy8cvmo>.
834. There are at least a few people who claim to read the N.Y. Times primarily because its obituaries are so interesting and well-written; if you’d like to see just how much fun the obituaries can be, here’s what Neil Genzlinger had to say about the late Peregrine Pollen <www.tinyurl.com/r2aszlk>.
835. “May God blast anyone who writes a biography of me,” J. M. Barrie wrote, according to Piers Dudgeon, whose *Neverland: J. M. Barrie, the Du Mauriers, and the Dark Side of Peter Pan* (2009) is a dark and grim examination of the lives of the author and his friends, and he quotes D. H. Lawrence, who wrote in a letter that “Barrie has a fatal touch for those he loves. They die.” Conan Doyle is mentioned briefly, and the book still is available in a reprint edition.
836. Potter & Potter Auctions in Chicago will be offering “fine books and manuscripts” on Apr. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/yx4y7j9l>, with interesting Sherlockian and Doylean material; search for both [sherlock] and [doyle]. It appears to be someone’s collection (some of the books are inscribed to John Nieminski and Nathan L. Bengis).
837. There was a nice (and nicely illustrated) article in *France Today* (Mar. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/u93pr7p> about French criminologist Alphonse Bertillon, whom Sherlock Holmes admired: “he expressed his enthusiastic admiration of the French savant,” Watson said (in “The Naval Treaty”).
838. “Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Who Owns 221b Baker Street” headlined a story in *The Telegraph* (Mar. 14) that led with a misleading photograph of the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street; the photograph was misleading because the story is about the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes’ secretary. The block of offices and flats at 215-237 is owned by “a string of anonymous holding companies” tied to Kazakh oligarch Nurali Aliviev, and the government’s National Crime Agency is investigating property in London that might have been bought with the proceeds of organized crime.
839. It’s interesting to see that it’s not only *The Telegraph* that is confused about where Sherlock Holmes lived: if you ask Google Maps to show you 221b Baker Street, you’re shown an image and the location of the Museum.
840. *Deadly Anniversaries*, edited by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini (New York: Hanover Square, 2020; 396 pp., \$26.99) celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Mystery Writers of America; it’s an anthology of new stories by members of MWA, each involving some sort of anniversary, including Laurie R. King’s “Ten Years On” (a nice addition to her Mary Russell stories).
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841. Mar 20 #4 “Elementary, my dear Watson.” One often hears or reads that Sherlock Holmes never said that iconic sentence, but of course it would be better to say that he never said that in the Canon (if one is going to play the Grand Game properly). The earliest recorded instance of Holmes actually saying that is in the film “The Return of Sherlock Holmes” (1929), which isn’t all that surprising since it’s the first film in which Holmes actually speaks. There has been quite a bit of research into other people saying that, or something like that, and you can read all about it at the Quote Investigator web-site <www.tinyurl.com/tkm6pgu>.
842. One hears of Sherlock everywhere: “While other detectives need their Mind Palaces to solve their crimes, the infamous ‘Sherlock Homi’ needs only a cup of tea and two eggs every morning! Come catch him in action with his partner, Dr. Jamshed Wadia in this funny yet adventurous play” at the Tata Theatre in Mumbai on Mar. 21.
843. Cearnth Fox’s *Sherlock Holmes: Playing the Game* (Melbourne: Fox’s Plays, 2020; 184 pp., \$12.99) is a delightfully imaginative pastiche: Holmes is preparing to retire to Sussex, and is informed by Mrs. Hudson that she has written her memoirs, in which she corrects the many mistakes he has made, and the many errors in Watson’s stories; hoping to find a publisher, she takes her manuscript to Conan Doyle, who sends her to Greenhough Smith at the Strand magazine, and it is grand see two alternate universes collide. It’s readily available at Amazon, and recommended.
844. Fox also has written two two-act plays “The Real Sherlock Holmes” (2005) and “Nursing Holmes” (2009), and a two-act musical comedy “Sherlock, Stock and Barrel” (2007); you can read preview scripts of all three plays at his web-site <www.foxplays.com>. His own web-site’s at <www.cenfoxbooks.com>.
845. Mark Jones and Paul Chapman are continuing their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) at their “Doings of Doyle” podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest post considers two Apocryphal stories (“The Man with the Watches” and “The Lost Special”).
846. Roy Hudd died on Mar. 15. He launched his career as a comedian on stage in 1957 and went on to perform in pantomimes and music hall, and on radio and television, and was awarded an OBE in 2004. He played Sherlock Holmes in 1999 in the BBC Radio 2 series “The Newly Discovered Casebook of Sherlock Holmes”, John Gedgrave in Granada’s “The Dying Detective” (1994) and James Phillimore in “The Singular Inheritance of Miss Gloria Wilson on BBC Radio 4 (2002).

847. Leonard Goldberg's *The Art of Deception* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2020; 320 pp., \$26.99), is the fourth in his series that stars Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who learned much from her father and is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr. to capture an apparent madman who is defacing valuable paintings in galleries and private collections in London in 1916. It turns out that there's method to the vandal's madness, and more than one mystery for the team to resolve; the author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.
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848. Mar 20 #5 The Belfast Custom House is for sale, according to an article in the Belfast Telegraph on Mar. 9, kindly forwarded by Oscar Ross, who reports that the building is one of two candidates for the location of the post office in Belfast where James Browner mailed his gruesome packet (in "The Cardboard Box"); the Queen's Square post office was housed in the west wing of the building at the time the case occurred. You can see images of the Custom House on-line <www.tinyurl.com/vlww6hj>; the estate agents say POA [price on application], which may or may not mean "if you have to ask, you can't afford it."
849. Here a plaque, there a plaque . . . Roger Johnson found the Open Plaques web-site <www.openplaques.org>, with information about 47,627 commemorative plaques that have been installed world-wide; the listing's not complete, but a search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] reveals a nice assortment, hither, thither, and yon.
850. Catherine Cooke has received notice that the "Conan Doyle in Edinburgh" conference at Napier University on June 25-27 (Dec 19 #2) has been postponed, and that dates for a rescheduled conference later in the year will be posted as soon as possible at <www.edinburgh-conan-doyle.org/events>.
851. The Old Court Radio Theatre Company collaborated with the Sherlock Holmes Society of London to make splendid recordings of ten stories from the Canon, two Apocryphal tales, the Gillette play, and two pastiches, and they are available on-line so that you can listen to them free at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/category/podcasts>.
852. Sam Siciliano's new *The Venerable Tiger* (New York: Titan, 2020; 317 pp., \$14.95) is the latest in his series of accounts of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes and his cousin Dr. Henry Vernier; the story inspired by "The Speckled Band" (but with some interesting twists and turns). Siciliano's web-site is at <www.samsiciliano.net>.
853. Samantha Wolov notes that Holmes and Watson are featured prominently (and unexpectedly), along with Wilkie Collins, Hunter S. Thompson, Dorothy Parker, Collette, Ernest Hemingway, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, in Paul Bassett Davies' *Dead Writers in Rehab* (2017).
854. Walter Satterthwait died on Feb. 23. He was a prolific writer of mystery novels and short stories, and his novel *Escapade* (1995) was a locked-room murder mystery set in an English country house in 1921 and with Harry Houdini and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on hand.
855. "Sherlockian Wisdom for a Pandemic" is an amusing challenge posted in the Inner Circle at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>; everyone is welcome to participate.
856. "Sherlock Holmes est installé dans l'Allier!" is an interesting two-minute video (all in French) on YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/v5qxngp> about Thierry Saint-Joanis, president of the Société Sherlock Holmes de France. The Société has its own YouTube channel at <www.tinyurl.com/txd8gxs> with many more videos, including the imaginative "See EU Later" comment on Brexit.
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857. Mar 20 #6 Book collectors soon (or eventually) discover how interesting provenance can be; it's the history of a copy of a book, from owner to owner, and of course there's much more to it than merely saying "from the collection of . . .," as shown in Ray Betzner's post to his "Studies in Starrett blog" <www.vincentstarrett.com/blog/2020/2/1>.
858. Type Punch Matrix, the rare book firm founded by Rebecca Romney and Brian Cassidy has issued a new catalog <www.tinyurl.com/ubnitug>; there's nothing directly Sherlockian, but a copy of Sugiyama Toujiro's *A Japanese Argument for Women's Suffrage* (1887) is accompanied by an intriguing illustration that shows Japanese women dressed in contemporary Victorian fashion copied from British books and magazines (the Meiji Restoration began in 1868). Open the catalog in Adobe (there's a link at the right) and go to page 58 to see how up-to-date some Japanese women were in the year that "A Study in Scarlet" was published in Beeton's Christmas Annual.
859. It can be interesting to see what turns up Pinterest: go to <www.pinterest.com> and search for [sherlock holmes cocktail] to find a heavy aluminum sign (£4.99) offering a recipe for "The Reichenbach Fall" (1 oz London dry gin, 2 oz dry sherry, 1 splash Stirrings' blood orange bitters, and 3 oz lemonade); pour ingredients into a shaker and shake gently to create the froth of the Reichenbach Falls when poured into a tall glass filled with ice. Stirrings makes a wide variety of mixes and seems to owned by the Sazerac Company, which got its start in the 19th century in the Sazerac Coffee House in New Orleans.
860. This isn't be best time to travel, but in the meantime the Hotel Sherlock Holmes in Meiringen has a nice video advertisement that you can watch at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk70dqfludg>.
861. "There's a Place Where Lost Things Go" was a recent episode on "Legacies" (a series streamed on the CW) that aired on Mar. 12, and included a dream sequence that had Alexis Denisof (Professor Vardemus) as Sherlock Holmes and Quincy Fouse (Milton Greasley) as Dr. Watson. As with many series on the CW, it can difficult to understand just what's going on unless you've watched earlier episodes (or have a cheat sheet), but you may be able to see an excerpt from the dream sequence at <www.tinyurl.com/sjntg56>.
862. Kabukichō Syarokku [Kabukicho Sherlock] is an imaginative 30-minute Japanese animated series that's available on Amazon Prime; it's set in Tokyo's most famous red-light district, and features Katsuyuki Konishi (Sherlock Holmes) and Kuichi Nakamura (John Watson), and there's an entry at Wikipedia that gives you a good idea of what's going on.
863. The Golden Raspberry Awards (for failure in cinematic achievement), also known as the Razzies, have been announced, and this year "Cats" won in six categories: worst picture, worst supporting actor James Corben, best actress (Rebel Wilson), worst director, worst screenplay, and worst screen combo (for "any two half-feline/ half-human hairballs"). Idris Elba, who played Macavity: The Mystery Cat) was not nominated in any category. Details at <www.razzies.com/razz-newz.html>.
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864. Mar 20 #7 Ernest Dudley, Eille Norwood's son-in-law, was interviewed by David Stuart Davies at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's film evening in 1998, and it's available, Jennie Paton notes, at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIH-g4UL5mo>. Norwood played Sherlock Holmes in 45 films in the early 1920s, and then in the play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1923), which was revised by Dudley and performed in 1953.

865. Jennie also has discovered “Movie Magic & Mysteries: The Making of Sherlock Jr.” <www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYR81Zp07AI>, a 23-minute documentary (produced by the Kino International Corp. in 2010) about how Buster Keaton made his now-classic 1924 silent film.
866. Nils Clausson, author of *Arthur Conan Doyle's Art of Fiction* (Oct 18 #3), reports that he has been commissioned by Cambridge Scholars Publishing to edit an anthology of essays on Conan Doyle's life and complete works (not just the Sherlock Holmes stories). The formal call for contributions is available on request <nils.clausson@uregina.ca>; please put “Reexamining ACD” in the subject line.
867. Reported: *The Big Book of Reel Murders: Stories That Inspired Great Crime Films*, edited by Otto Penzler (Viking, 2019), includes two tales from the Canon (“The Five Orange Pips” and “The Six Napoleons”).
868. L.A. Theatre Works has launched an imaginative program to assist students who are working on-line: “Setting the Stage for Learning” is a package of audio recordings of plays that allows teachers to enhance distance learning <www.latw.org/setting-stage-learning>; one of the plays is “The Hound of the Baskervilles” (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright and performed by LATW in 2014). Their commercial CD set for the play included a live audience talk-back with Leslie S. Klinger, and it's available for purchase at <www.latw.org/title/hound-baskervilles> if you're not an educator.
869. Adam Hochschild' *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*, first published in 1998, now has a second edition (New York: Mariner, 2020; 380 pp., \$16.99), and it's a grand book indeed; the sub-title is thoroughly appropriate. Conan Doyle joined the campaign against Leopold, writing *The Crime of the Congo* (1909) and many letters to the press, but E. D. Morel and Roger Casement are the real heroes in the battle to end Leopold's infamous conduct in West Africa.
870. Steve Mason reports that the Beacon Society has established an Annual Re-Certification Exam for the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, by way of encouraging “increased familiarity with the Canon and the Sherlockian world.” The questions are not overly difficult, he promises, and there is no charge to participate. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/rmo52dy>.
871. The Strand Bookstore in New York, which boasts 18 miles of bookshelves, is opening a second store, on the Upper West Side, on Columbus Avenue between 81st and 82nd Streets, near the American Museum of Natural History; there is no word yet on how many more miles of bookshelves there will be at the new location <www.tinyurl.com/srlo88q>.
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872. Mar 20 #8 There's an attractive edition of *A Study in Scarlet* (New York: Balzer + Bray, 2014; 277 pp, \$17.99) with many illustrations (in color and in black and white) by Gris Grimly, who has been described as a “modern master of gothic romanticism,” and is just that; he has illustrated many other books, including *Frankenstein* and Neil Gaiman's *The Dangerous Alphabet*, and he has a web-site at <www.madcreator.com>.
873. Radio Times has reported <www.tinyurl.com/tk5fn6s> that Audible has kindly made hundreds of its titles available for streaming without charge during the coronavirus crisis; one of them being “The Return of Sherlock Holmes” read by Simon Prebble.
874. James Macaluso Jr., who has illustrated more than a dozen of the Sherlock Holmes stories using Lego minifigures and bricks, also has created a similar *A Sherlock Holmes Alphabet* (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 68 pp., \$12.95); it's in full color, dedicated to Edward Gorey and typeset in Zombified, and imaginatively Sherlockian. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
875. The Nitrate Film Interest Group has an interesting web-site for those who want to help identify bits and pieces of films <www.tinyurl.com/vjm3zy>; there (alas) many films that survive today only as fragments.
876. You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?” asked Sherlock Holmes (in “The Three Gables”). There are only five complete copies of the First Folio in private hands, according to Christie's, and here's your chance to own the sixth, which will be at auction at Christie's in New York on Apr. 24, estimated at \$4 million to \$6 million. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/rwt2lla>.
877. Theatrics: the CDC having advised against large gatherings, it is likely that there won't be any theatrical performances in the near future; I've not heard that any of the following have been postponed or canceled, but it would be wise, to be sure, to check with theaters.
878. Katie Forgette's “Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily” will be performed at the Historic Casino Hall in La Grange, Tex., May 1-3; Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/Fayettecountrycommunitytheatre>.
879. Craig Sodaro's “Young Sherlock” will be performed at Playhouse 38 in Geneva, Ill., May 22-31 <www.tinyurl.com/qwjv2k>. And his “The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes” is due at the PIX Theatre in Lapeer, Mich., May 22-23 <www.centerfortheartslapeer.org>.
880. Sad news for my print subscribers: printing costs have risen again, so the new prices per year are \$19.50 (U.S.) and \$26.50 (foreign); as always, you can read the newsletter on-line at <www.redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>, in full color and with live links, and at no cost whatsoever, and my feelings won't be hurt if you decide not to renew your print subscriptions.
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881. Apr 20 #1 “The Man from Beyond” (1922) is a silent film based on a story written by Harry Houdini, who plays Howard Hillary, a man who is frozen in Arctic ice in 1820 and is thawed and brought back to life a century later; at the end of the film Hillary gives the woman he loves (and believes to be the reincarnation of his lost sweetheart from a century earlier) a copy of Conan Doyle's *The New Revelation*. Conan Doyle praised the film in a letter that was published in a press book <www.tinyurl.com/r74bysg>, and you can see the film at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYnbe_2Iz8Q>.
882. If you can't attend a performance, you can always read the script: Jeffery Hatcher's *Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders* (based on the novel by Larry Millett) is available from the Dramatists Play Service (\$10.00) <www.dramatists.com>. And Jon Jory's *Holmes and Watson: The Game's Afoot* has just been published by Playscripts (\$9.99) <www.playscripts.com>; it's a collection of one-act dramatizations of four cases nicely suitable for school productions. Both companies also offer other Sherlockian plays.
883. “Reichenbach Falls” (broadcast by BBC-4 in 2007) was adapted by John Mayor from Ian Rankin's 1996 “John Rebus” short story “The Acid Test”; Richard Wilson appears as Arthur Conan Doyle; Jennie Paton discovered the program on-line at <www.vimeo.com/400916730>.
884. The winter 2019 issue of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* is at hand, and nicely done as always; if you aren't a subscriber, their summary of the issue will show you what you're missing <www.tinyurl.cm/sbpquw3>.
885. Laurie R. King's *Riviera Gold* (New York: Bantam, 2020; 368 pp, \$28.00) is a sequel to her *Island of the Mad* (Apr 18 #2); now Mary Russell (and eventually her husband Sherlock Holmes) are in Monte Carlo in Jazz Age 1925, once more involved with Mrs. Hudson, whose early life is revealed to

- have been even more provocative than we learned in *The Murder of Mary Russell* (Mar 16 #1). It's all great fun, with some imaginative twists and turns in this 16th novel in the Mary Russell series. Laurie has an interesting web-site, well worth exploring, at <www.laurierking.com>.
886. You can still go to the theatre while you're staying home: the National Theatre has begun streaming past productions on its YouTube channel, and they have done some magnificent shows <www.tinyurl.com/ufxrhpc>. You may eventually get to see Benedict Cumberbatch in their "Hamlet".
887. "Kate Middleton Shows Off Her Incredible Book Collection in Rare Picture Taken Inside Her Kensington Palace Home" was the headline on an article in Hello! (Mar. 29) <www.tinyurl.com/tn6sngy>, spotted by Sonia Fetherston. That's Princess Kate, of course, and the "incredible book collection" actually consists of copies of Penguin's Clothbound Classics (£11.00 each), with attractive covers designed by Coralie Bickford-Smith. According to the article, she has *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (2010, with an introduction and notes by Christopher Frayling); the series has 69 titles so far, including *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (2018, with an introduction by Iain Pears and notes by Ed Glinert).
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888. Apr 20 #2 *Classic Penguin: Cover to Cover*, edited by Paul Buckley (New York: Penguin, 2016; 288 pp., \$30.00) is a colorful tribute to the cover designs on many of the classics Penguin has published over the years, including the spectacular artwork created by Adam Simpson for the wrap-around cover of *Sherlock Holmes: The Novels* (2015); there's commentary by Simpson, and by Michael Dirda, who wrote the introduction for the book.
889. There's still a nice market for rare film posters such as one owned by the late Paul D. Herbert, offered at Heritage Auctions on Mar. 21 (Jan 20 #1): Paul's one-sheet poster for Clive Brook's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929) sold for \$17,400 <www.tinyurl.com/toqg9qs>.
890. Greg Wagland has recorded many of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories, and made them available at YouTube; you can listen to him reading "The Brazilian Cat" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0Ttm2Lksm0>, and there are links to other stories.
891. Neil Peter Jampolis died on Dec.15. He had a long career as a lighting, scenic, and costume designer for the stage, and was a professor emeritus at the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television; he won both a Drama Desk Award and the Tony for his lighting design for the American tour of the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes".
892. The Royal Mail has honored the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Wordsworth with a set of stamps showing extracts from works by ten Romantic poets. One wonders whether Sherlock Holmes (before he pursued the case of the missing naval treaty) had read William Blake's "Auguries of Innocence".
893. Michael W. McClure has edited and annotated *The Speckled Band* for first-time readers (Chester: Baskerville Productions, 2018; 72 pp., \$9.99) with illustrations by Tijana Tumbas; it's a nice introduction for young people to the story that Conan Doyle, in 1927, said was his favorite. The publisher's web-site's at <www.baskervilleproductions.com>.
894. "Word on the Street" is a 30-minute series, produced by BBC Persian TV and the British Council, with Ashlie Walker, Stephen Walker, and Rob Lewis as presenters; "Murder Mystery" (2014) included a Sherlockian segment, with Wendy Hurrell interviewing Roger Johnson at the Sherlock Holmes Pub, and you can view it at <www.tinyurl.com/rqu6yrm>.
895. Fans of the late Jim French's "Imagination Theater" will welcome the news that it has been revived by Larry Albert and John Patrick Lowrie (who performed in many of their Sherlock Holmes broadcasts), and their web-site at <www.harrynile.com> offers a long list of their Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) broadcasts, as well as a blog and other features such as links to the radio stations that are carrying their shows; they began recording new Sherlock Holmes programs (from scripts by M. J. Elliott) in 2019 (included at the end of their list of "further adventures"), and some of their older broadcasts are available at their YouTube channel.
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896. Apr 20 #3 Crippen & Landru has told its customers that "Amazon has not replenished orders of our books. They've halted all warehouse replenishments of 'non-essential' items," adding that books were on that list (ironically, since Amazon started with books). Crippen & Landru has published, and still offers at <www.crippenlandru.com>, excellent books, among them Douglas G. Greene's impressive biography *John Dickson Carr: The Man Who Explained Miracles*, and gladly fills orders directly. You can read more about this in an article at Vox <www.tinyurl.com/tu7r9k4>.
897. Scale75 is a Spanish company that makes attractive 75mm figurines, and one of their offers is a two-piece set of Holmes and Watson, priced at £123.96 <www.tinyurl.com/yx2w4ytp> (Holmes and Watson also are available separately); their U.S. web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/w2prjlw>.
898. Christie's auction on Apr. 24 has been postponed to June 12, in case you are considering bidding on that first folio Shakespeare (Mar 20 #8); you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/rwt2lla>.
899. Andrew Jack died on Mar. 31. Best known as a dialect coach, he also was an actor; his lengthy list of credits as dialect coach include "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011), and you can see him working with Robert Downey Jr. at <www.tinyurl.com/vac565p>.
900. "Cannabis-curious consumers in Canada who want to try marijuana drinks can now buy them at a dispensary or have them delivered to your door," according to the Green Entrepreneur (Apr. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/srq3ysd>. Tweed's "Bakerstreet and Ginger" is of them, named in honor of the street in which Sherlock Holmes lived, and another is "Houndstooth and Soda"; the active ingredient is THC, and Bakerstreet and Houndstooth are the names of two of their strains of cannabis.
901. Christie's has a story on-line about "10 old masters that changed the art market" <www.tinyurl.com/spk8oh4>; one of them is Gainborough's portrait of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, shown in full color, with discussion of the "Napoleon of Crime" (Adam Worth).
902. Jennie Paton discovered Paul Tumeys article on "The Screwball Comics of Gus Mager: Hippos, Monks, and Sherlock Holmes" on-line at the Comics Journal <www.tinurl.com/zfv555k>; it's a nicely illustrated exploration of one of the earliest (and long-running) appearances of Sherlock Holmes in the comics.
903. Some Sherlockian societies have been using Zoom to hold virtual meetings. The Washington Post ran a story on Apr. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/rw27gvb> about potential problems for those using Zoom; the story includes a link to "how to protect your Zoom calls"
904. "Rodger Baskerville's Lonely Hound from Hell" is a two-act rock opera performed by the Willie Nelson Oratorio Society (aka Wanda and Jeffery Dow) in 1997 and first published the following year (Sep 98 #4), and it's now included in their RODGER BASKERVILLE'S LONELY HOUND FROM HELL AND OTHERS, along with scripts from parodies they performed for the Pleasant Places of Florida over the years; 179 pp., \$10.00, available at <www.amazon.com>.
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905. Apr 20 #4 And now for something completely different: “What’s the least understood institution in Washington?” was the question put to Washington journalist Bob Woodward. His response was, “Congress. No institution has changed so much in the 30 years I’ve been reporting. Partisan warfare there is now like World War I, with everyone in their trenches. It is now an institution at risk.” That’s from the July 2004 issue of *Washingtonian* magazine, more than 15 years ago.
906. “A certain gracious lady” (the great-great-grand-daughter of the one that’s mentioned in the Canon) gave a rare televised speech to the nation on Apr. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/un49uka>, and the image that ran with many of the articles showed her in a green dress that made her a sitting Chroma-Key that was irresistible to many Photoshoppers, one of whom created an image that Alan Rettig found in an abandoned tin dispatch-box.
907. Honor Blackman died on Apr. 5. She was best known for playing Pussy Galore in the James Bond film “Goldfinger” (1964), but also appeared as Dr. Cathy Gale in the early days of the British television series “The Avengers”; the series eventually aired in the U.S. in 1991. You can see her briefly at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cN1aSA2Qoxs>. The Sherlockian connection is rather minor, but in the episode “Don’t Look Behind You” someone says to her, “That’s Hound of the Baskervilles country.” If you’re a fan of the series, you’ll enjoy exploring <www.theavengers.tv>.
908. Robert Downey Jr. celebrated his 55th birthday on Apr. 4, tweeting a Sherlockian video message to his fans <www.tinyurl.com/va72oh3>.
909. Ellen Byerrum has eleven titles in her “crime of fashion” series that features Lacey Smithsonian, who’s a fashion reporter in Washington, D.C. when she isn’t solving mysteries, and her latest book is *Sherlocktopus Holmes: Eight Arms of the Law* (Denver: Ellen Street Books, 2020; 34 pp., \$8.99). Sherlocktopus Holmes is assisted by Dr. Flotsam in an amusing children’s book with attractive art by Jacqueline Berkman-Glatigny. Ellen’s web-site is at <www.ellenbyerrum.com>.
910. “Chronicle of a Pandemic Foretold” was the headline on Jug Suraiya’s post to the Times of India’s blog on Apr. 7; he noted that “perhaps one of the earliest fictional accounts of a global threat that wipes out all forms of life is Arthur Conan Doyle’s *The Poison Belt* (1913).” You can read the blog at <www.tinyurl.com/wcvs2626f>.
911. “Sherlock Holmes Turns Engineer” is a delightful Fox Movietone news clip released in 1927 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPws_KSmToo>; it shows William Gillette and the steam engine he drove on the grounds of his home at what is now Gillette Castle in Hadlyme, Conn. There’s a carefully-restored engine on display at the castle now <www.tinyurl.com/u488ax2>, but it’s an electric engine rather than the steam engine shown in the film. Tyke Niver, who continues to impersonate Gillette at the castle (with his wife Teddie as Mrs. Gillette), reports that there were two engines: one electric, and the other steam (which is in storage until funds are available to restore it as well).
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912. Apr 20 #5 Nick Utechin would like to hear from anyone who owns a copy of S. C. Roberts’ eight-page pamphlet *A Note on the Watson Problem* (1929), published in an edition limited to 100 copies for his friends (it was an off-print of his review of Ronald Knox’s *Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes*). Nick wants to create a detailed census of surviving copies; you can contact him at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.
913. “The Bloggess writes stuff that actually is laugh-out-loud, but you know that really you shouldn’t be laughing and probably you’ll go to hell for laughing, so maybe you shouldn’t read it. That would be safer and wiser.” That’s what Neil Gaiman had to say in his back-over blurb for Jenny Lawson’s *Let’s Pretend This Never Happened* (2012), and he’s absolutely correct; highly recommended if you want to read something that’s not at all Sherlockian, and Lawson’s web-site <www.thebloggess.com> will let you see what you’re in for if you read the book.
914. The Open House and BSI Trust Book Fair scheduled for May 17 at Denny Dobry’s home in Reading, Pa., has been postponed; if you’d like to be on the mailing list for an announcement of a new date, you can contact Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>.
915. Ira Wolff (“Douglas Maberley”) died on Apr. 4. He worked in sales and direct marketing, and was an energetic collector in two areas: 19th and early 20th century photography, and mystery and detective fiction (including the first page of the manuscript of “The Sign of the Four” (he donated the latter collection to the University of California in San Diego in 1977). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1970.
916. The “Scintillation of Scions” scheduled by Watson’s Tin Box on June 12-14 at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport has, like so many Sherlockian events, been cancelled, but Karen Wilson and Greg Ruby have announced the substitute “Scintillation of Scions at Home” via the Internet on June 13. Many if not most of the presenters are expected to participate, and free registration will open on May 18 at <www.scintillation.org>.
917. “Even Sherlock Holmes Author Takes No Chances with Coronavirus” was the headline on a story in the Times of Tunbridge Wells on Apr. 17 that included an image of the statue of Conan Doyle in Crowborough.
918. “A Study in Scarlet” is seldom seen on stage, but Bart Lovins dramatized the story for a production in Elizabethtown, Ky., in Jan. 2019, it was done with imagination, on a revolving stage, with very few props, and it was impressive. His dramatization of “The Sign of Four” was performed in Jan. 2020, and there are links to videos of both shows at <www.bartlovins.com/writing>. The script for his “A Study in Scarlet” is available from Barnes and Noble (\$14.99).
919. Paul Thomas Miller’s “Doyle’s Rotary Coffin” (Mar 19 #4), a society whose motto is “All Holmes Is Good Holmes,” has published *No Holmes Barred* (its first “scrapbook of Holmesiana”), which is available as a free download at the society’s web-site at <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>.
920. Apr 20 #6 There’s nothing Sherlockian about Dark Sky’s weather reports, but it’s spectacular: you can set it for your location and be told things such as “possible light rain starting in 6 min., stopping 14 min. later,” which is far more specific than anything else available, and you can easily look out the window to see just how accurate it is. It’s on-line at <www.darksky.net>, and available at Apple’s app store (\$3.99).
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921. Mort Drucker died on Apr. 9. He was one of the stars in the “usual gang of idiots” who made *Mad* magazine one of the most successful magazines of the 1970s. He worked for DC comics in the 1940s and went on to a 55-year career at *Mad*. Stabur Graphics advertised his signed caricature of Sherlock Holmes in the March 1984 issue of *The Baker Street Journal*.
922. “Sherlock Holmes in Russia” is a new Russian television mini-series, with Maxim Matveev as Holmes in St. Petersburg, following the trail of Jack the Ripper (who has fled to Russia). Alexander Orlov has reported a trailer for the series, on-line at <www.start.ru/watch/sherlock-v-rossii>. And if that link doesn’t work, try <www.kinopoisk.ru/film/1272376/video/166497>. START is a subscription streaming service, available world-wide; it costs \$7.99 a month in the U.S.
923. Porter Press International is offering their remaining copies of Douglas Wilmer’s splendid autobiography *Stage Whispers* (Apr 09 #3) at £14.95, with 75% going to the World Health Organization’s COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund <www.tinyurl.com/yat99q28>.

924. Matt Lubbers-Moore's *Murder and Mayhem: An Annotated Bibliography of Gay and Queer Males in Mystery, 1909-2018* (Los Angeles: ReQueered Tales, 2020; 923 pp., \$39.95) is a detailed survey of the genre; the 3,061 entries include main-stream pastiches such as Gyles Brandreth's series about Oscar Wilde as a detective and Russell A. Brown's *Sherlock Holmes and the Mysterious Friend of Oscar Wilde*, Larry Townsend's *The Sexual Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, Michael Hardwick's novelization of the film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes", many modern niche pastiches, and Conan Doyle's *Round the Fire Stories*, which contained the short story "The Man with the Watches" (Lubbers-Moore discusses the story in some detail, and presents the text so that readers can judge the homosexual content for themselves).
925. Roger Johnson notes in the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter *The District Messenger* that the street artist Banksy has posted Instagram images of his latest artwork, showing (according to Roger) "clearly distant relatives of the Giant Rat of Sumatra" <www.tinyurl.com/y9wh4a8d>.
926. The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The New Milton Advertiser and Lymington Times reported on Jan. 10 that a section of the derelict hotel had begun to collapse <www.tinyurl.com/ybsb8ja6>, and on Feb. 26 that a new developer had pledged to revive the "original architectural glory" of the hotel as part of a plan to convert the property into 85 homes and five shops. A Hoburne Development representative explained that the project would bring back the entrance and battlement-style terraces designed by Conan Doyle in 1912 <www.tinyurl.com/y9phrgp6>.
927. Apr 20 #7 "Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle found contact lenses fascinating," Valentina Lombardo wrote in *Advanced Science News* (Feb. 17) "to the point of deciding to have them used by his character, private detective Sherlock Holmes, in some of his disguises." Not in the Canon, so presumably in one or more pastiches. Which ones?
928. Kenneth C. Lanza ("His Last Bow") died on Apr. 13. He was an enthusiastic admirer of Frank Sinatra, old-time radio, and of course Sherlock Holmes; he was a co-founder of Altamont's Agents of Schenectady, and was awarded his Investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars in 1997.
929. The *Baker Street Almanac 2020*, modestly described by editor Ross E. Davies as "an annual capsule of a timeless past and future," previously published on-line (Mar 20 #1), now is available in a print edition (\$30.00 postpaid) with (as promised by Ross) some amusing extras. It is also imaginatively packaged, as you can see at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2020.html>.
930. Jason Lethcoe's *No Place Like Holmes: The Future Door* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011; 209 pp., \$9.99) is the second book about Griffin Sharpe, a young American living in London with his uncle Rupert Snodgrass, who lives at 221A Baker Street; it's juvenile fiction, and nicely done, with adventures, time travel, and plenty of villains (including two Moriartys).
931. VisitBritain (aka the British Tourist Authority) made headlines this month after posting an interactive map that highlighted British literature but included locations only for English writers. According to *The Times* (Apr. 16), the map displayed Sherlock Holmes as "the quintessential English detective," even though there's a statue of him in Edinburgh. VisitBritain quickly removed the map from its web-site, explaining that a VisitEngland "literary heroes" map published in 2018 had mistakenly been republished as British.
932. Keiji Fujiwara died on Apr. 12. He began his career as a voice actor in Japanese film and television in 1968; his many credits include dubbing for Robert Downey Jr. in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011).
933. Here's your chance to see a member of the Baker Street Irregulars in action: Helen Dorey ("Helen Stoner") is deputy director and inspectress at Sir John Soane's Museum in London, and "Opening Up the Soane" is a three-episode report on their long-term restoration project; you can watch the series on-line at their web-site <www.soane.org> or at YouTube.
934. In 1982 the television series "Fantasy Island" included a segment titled "Save Sherlock Holmes" in which Ron Ely played a department store detective in a fantasy that had him rescuing Sherlock Holmes from Prof. Moriarty. The cast included Peter Lawford as Sherlock Holmes, Donald O'Connor as Dr. Watson, Mel Ferrer as Moriarty, and Rita Jenrette (whose activities in Washington inspired the name of the group of political-satire performers "The Capitol Steps") as Nurse Heavenly. Howard Ostrom has found the segment on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2RyY6F8oOQ>.
935. Apr 20 #8 "As you value your life and your reason, you should keep away from the dates," Paul Thomas Miller warns in the introduction to *Watson Does Not Lie: A Chronology of Sherlock Holmes and John H. Watson* (Cabin John: Wildside, 2019; 182 pp., \$14.99). Obviously he has ignored his own advice, as a new recruit to the stalwart band who have labored to make sense of Canonical dates, and his approach is to take what Watson has written as gospel, offering explanations for the many contradictions found in the Canon.
936. "Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson" is a British television series broadcast on Channel 4; their episode "Dartmoor" (2017) explored the story of the Hound of the Baskervilles, and Jennie Paton found it on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgQETaP7U7g>.
937. You'll soon be able to see Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller play the same character (not Sherlock Holmes), thanks to the National Theatre, which is making recordings of past productions available on-line at YouTube each week, and you'll be able to see their "Frankenstein" the first week in May <www.tinyurl.com/yblepqbh>; it's a spectacular show, thanks to Danny Boyle (who also produced the recent Summer Olympics in London).
938. Theatrics (some theaters are planning to be open this summer, and others are planning ahead): Tal Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" is scheduled at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., June 6-14 <www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org>.
939. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Gorton Theatre in Gloucester, Mass., July 10-Aug. 2 <www.gloucesterstage.com>; at the Balzer Theater at Herren's in Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 2-27 <www.theateroutfit.org>; at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre in Lowell, Mass., Feb. 10-28, 2021; and at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., Mar. 12 <www.alleytheatre.org>.
940. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at the Playhouse at White Lake in Whitehall, Mich., Aug. 20-22, during their Summer Theatre Festival <www.theplayhouseatwhitelake.org>.
941. John Barry's "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" is scheduled at the Phoenix Theatre in Ross-on-Wye, Herts., Sept. 9-12 <www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk>.
942. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is due at the Lifeline Theatre in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 11-Nov. 1 <www.lifelinetheater.org>.
943. Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is scheduled by the Children's Theatre of Charleston in Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 1-4 <www.ctoc.org>.
944. Robert Brock's marionette production "The Death & Life of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Lancaster Marionette Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 31-Nov. 14 <www.lancastermarionette.org>.

945. May 20 #1 The 6sqft blog reported on Apr 24 <www.tinyurl.com/ycah5tum> on an interesting two-bedroom condominium at 106 Waverly Place near Washington Square in New York City, with 1,520 square feet, advertised at \$3 million. One of its features is a library with teak built-in shelves and a secret closet that you can access by pulling on a copy of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*
946. *The Figure of the Detective: A Literary History and Analysis*, by Charles Brownson (Jefferson: McFarland, 2014; 210 pp., \$29.95) is an interesting academic discussion of the genre. Brownson's introduction to the detective story was reading, aged seven or eight, Walter R. Brooks' *Freddy the Detective*, and his book progresses from the preclassical detective to the metaphysical modern; there's a chapter about Sherlock Holmes, of course, with a section on "portrayals of Holmes as an index of social change" in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and other stories in films and television.
947. "Mad Movies with the L.A. Connection" was a 30-minute series that was produced in 1985; Jennie Paton discovered their version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOV3fZLEs_0>.
948. "Start the day at Speedy's Café, beneath the lodgings of Holmes and Watson," was the suggestion of the Londonist (Feb. 17). It's located at 187 North Gower Street, and has a Sherlockian menu; the article has some nice images <www.tinyurl.com/y79doi9c>, and one assumes that Speedy's will be open again eventually.
949. Hans Meyer died on Apr. 3. He began his acting career in films in France in the 1960s, and went on to perform in television in the 1970s; he played Hebworth/Veitch in Granada's "The Master Blackmailer" (1992).
950. One hears of (well, sees) Sherlock everywhere: Mike Berdan has noted the Rolling Stones' "One World: Together at Home" split-screen video concert <www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7pZgQepXfA>; they performed "You Can't Always Get What You Want" from their homes on Apr. 18, and Keith Richards has on the table in front of him an indigo leather-bound copy of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. It's the Easton Press edition, published in 1981 in black leather, and later in indigo leather.
951. When in New South Wales: the South China Morning Post ran a nicely illustrated story on Feb. 25 about the Hydro Majestic Blue Mountains Hotel, now "home to heritage luxury," noting that Conan Doyle stayed there during his visit to Australia in 1920.
952. Those who attended the Sherlockian conference in Minneapolis last August may recall Steve Mason's challenge to identify the Canonical cases represented by an assortment of his imaginative Canonical needlepoint mats. He offered a similar challenge to members of the Beacon Society last month, with a deadline of Apr. 25, but you can see his mats in full color at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com> [click on "the puzzles of sherlock holmes"].
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953. May 20 #2 "So That's Why Mr. Darcy Swims Wearing Shirt and Trousers" was the headline on a story in The Sunday Times on Feb. 23, about the "no nudity" clause the National Trust includes in its contracts with film and television companies, "to avoid causing distress to visitors on a day out." They made an exception, however, for a scene shot at Cliveden in which Robert Downey Jr. was filmed tied to a bed wearing only a strategically-placed pillow in his "Sherlock Holmes" (2009). The company was required to isolate the room in the estate's hotel so that guests did not encounter the star in the "modesty pouch" he wore between takes.
954. If you have access to Disney+, there's an excellent six-part series titled "Imagineering" about how Disney theme parks were and are created; it's not Sherlockian, but there's another program on the channel that is: "Waking Sleeping Beauty" (2009, an 86-minute documentary about the Disney Renaissance from 1984 to 1994 that revived Disney animation, with discussion of and clips from "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986). According to the documentary, it was Peter Schneider, then president of Walt Disney Feature Animation, who was responsible for changing the title of the film based on Eve Titus' *Basil of Baker Street* (Wikipedia and other sources say that it was Michael Eisner (CEO and chairman of the board of the company) who ordered the name of the film changed.
955. And then there's "The Great Louse Detective" (an episode of the Fox television series "The Simpsons") that aired on Dec. 15, 2020; there's nothing Sherlockian about the episode other than the punning title.
956. If you are running out of room in your library, an Atlas Obscura post on Apr. 24 (spotted by Bev Wolov) about "7 Spectacular Libraries You Can Explore from Your Living Room" <www.tinyurl.com/y84lucc6> will be of interest, with virtual-reality tours of some spectacular libraries.
957. The West Liberty Public Library has an imaginative outreach program that includes videos of director Allie Paarsmith's daily readings from *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* <www.facebook.com/WLPublicLibrary>.
958. Scottish Field reported on Jan. 15 that the latest release in Macallan's Archival Series of fine whiskies will honor the tale of the "luggy bonnet" told in one of Macallan's old advertisements <www.tinyurl.com/yay99pkj>. The luggy bonnet's a (non-Sherlockian) deerstalker, and you can see the advertisement (and read the amusing story) in the magazine. It was a limited issue, and there was a lottery; the winners paid £250 per bottle.
959. "What do you know, pray, of Tapanuli fever?" Holmes asked Watson (in "The Dying Detective"). And "Catch a Glimpse of Tapanuli, the World's Newest Ape" was headline on Matthew Moore's story in The Times on Apr. 18 about the Tapanuli orangutan, featured in "Primates" (a three-part series from the BBC's Natural History Unit). *Pongo tapanuliensis* was identified as a distinct species in 2017, and is found only in a small area in the Batang Toru area of South Tapanuli in Sumatra, and according to Wikipedia it is the world's rarest great ape.
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960. May 20 #3 A few years back the Royal Mail issued a set of eight stamps honoring the 50th anniversary of the BBC's long-running television series "Dad's Army" (Jun 18 #3); the actors included Arthur Lowe as Capt. George Mainwaring and John Le Mesurier as Sgt. Arthur Wilson. They will soon be available <www.tinyurl.com/y8sy8qpt> as "bobble buddies" from Big Chief Studios. Lowe played Dr. William Watson in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" (1977), and Le Mesurier was Eduardo Lucas in "The Second Stain" in the Alan Wheatley television series (1951), Barrymore in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and Lord Redcliff in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).
961. Ian Whitcomb died on Apr. 19. He was an English entertainer, singer-songwriter, record producer, writer, broadcaster, and actor, and was photographed wearing a deerstalker on cover of the EP record "N-e-r-v-o-u-s!" released by Capital Records (1965). There's nothing Sherlockian about the song; You can listen to it (and read the transcribed lyrics) on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yceohm8s>.
962. Howard Ostrom has noted another Sherlockian connection for Ian Whitcomb: he narrated the audiobooks for some of the many Sherlockian pastiches that have been written by Pennie Mae Cartawick.

963. Dynamite Entertainment has made the first issue of many of its comic-book series available on-line free <www.tinyurl.com/gqckfo3>, one of them being *The Trial of Sherlock Holmes* (2009), which was written by Leah Moore and John Reppion; only the first of the five issues is free, but of course you are welcome to purchase the other four. Dynamite has published many other Sherlockian series and graphic novels, in English and in French.
964. The Scintillation of Scions has come up with an imaginative way to celebrate the now-canceled gathering in June, offering T-shirts and tote bags for sale <www.tinyurl.com/yaryc9p9>.
965. Josh Lanyon is a prolific author of male/male romance fiction, including a "Holmes & Moriarity" series starring mystery author Christopher Holmes and former police officer J. X. Moriarity, with occasion allusions to Sherlock Holmes; the third title in the series is *The Boy with the Painful Tattoo* (Palmdale: JustJoshin, 2014; 236 pp., \$15.99. The author's web-site is at <www.joshlanyon.com>.
966. The famous (perhaps infamous) "tent joke" has been making its rounds since 1998, and you can read it in this newsletter (Dec 01 #6), or (as noted by Jennie Paton) see it performed in Sinhalese at <www.tinyurl.com/y7gzja7g>.
967. The manuscript of an unpublished chapter from "The Land of Mist" went to auction at Christie's last year (Jul 19 #1), estimated at £3,000-£5,000; it sold for £13,750 (including the buyer's premium). Now the manuscript of the story (as published) is on offer in a private sale, for £120,000. Visit <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm> for Randall Stock's discussion, with links to Christie's description of the manuscript as well as Christie's books-and-manuscripts specialist Sophie Hopkins.
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968. May 20 #4 "Technique Critique" (an interesting web-site uploaded to YouTube by Wired) offers real experts recruited to offer commentary on films and television, and the episode on "Spies & Disguises" has Joanna Mendez, former CIA Chief of Disguise, discussing 30 scenes, one of them (on "furniture camouflage") <www.tinyurl.com/y8fc2yce> Sherlockian.
969. Molly Guptill Manning's *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II* (2014) is an interesting discussion of the Armed Services Editions, the 123 million paperbacks that were distributed free among the men fighting in every theater of the war. There were more than 1,300 titles in the series, including Christopher Morley's *Kitty Foyle* and two Nero Wolfe books by Rex Stout, but nothing by Arthur Conan Doyle. There was, however, one Sherlockian title that collectors might want to pursue: Bennett Cerf's *Try and Stop Me*, a collection of humorous anecdotes and stories that include two about Conan Doyle and Holmes.
970. Kathy Manos Penn's *Bells, Tails & Murder* (Atlanta: Manos Penn & Ink, 2020; 246 pp. \$9.99) is the first of her "Dickens & Christie" mysteries; Dickens is a dog and Christie is a cat, owned by Leta Parker, who talks with them while they investigate crimes in the Cotswolds, where J. M. Barrie lived for a time in Stanway House (where Milne and Conan Doyle are said to have visited). It's Barrie who's at the heart of the mystery, and the author has a web-site at <www.kathymanospenn.com>.
971. Yes, Virginia, there is a Sherlockian face mask, offered by TeePublic, but possibly temporarily out of stock <www.tinyurl.com/y8l7qd9c>.
972. Howard Ostrom has reported that Tal Avezier, whose Sherlockian plays are performed by the Red Monkey Theater Group, reads some of the Canon on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yavbgxi9>.
973. "La dernière enquête de Sherlock Holmes" ["Sherlock Holmes' Last Investigation"] is an imaginative and nicely-produced 15-minute Swiss film that was produced by Gaël Grobéty and issued on a DVD (with English sub-titles) and added features in 2010; you can watch a trailer and purchase the film (CHF 10) at <www.sherlockholmes-lefilm.ch>.
974. There was a series of six Sherlock Holmes television programs broadcast in Germany in 1967 and 1968, with Erich Schellow (Sherlock Holmes) and Paul Edwin Roth (Dr. Watson), and Jennie Paton has discovered them all at YouTube <www.youtube.com/channel/UC4h-j2r_hZRreC8bi0X9zyg>.
975. Tom Fahres reports a treat for fans of Lewis Carroll, and Benedict Cumberbatch, who reads "Jabberwocky" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_Um3787fSY>
976. "The Booksellers" is a delightful documentary about the N.Y. antiquarian book trade; you can read Ella Taylor's enthusiastic review of the film on National Public Radio at <www.tinyurl.com/y7aozi6c>. You can also stream the film (\$9.99 for three days rental) at various Internet web-sites, one of them being <www.theavalon.org>. It's not Sherlockian, but one of the dealers is Rebecca Romney ("That Gap on the Second Shelf" in the BSI); you can see what sort of books she offers at <www.typepunchmatrix.com>.
977. May 20 #5 Mike Kean has reported a book offered by Burnside Rare Books that has nice Sherlockian provenance: the first American edition of Eric Ambler's *A Coffin for Dimitrios*, with a dust jacket and inscribed by Ambler at the Mystery Writers of America dinner in 1975 (when he won the Grand Master Award) to Norman Nolan ("Godfrey Norton" in the Baker Street Irregulars), from the collection of Otto Penzler ("The King of Bohemia" in the BSI); \$5,500 <www.tinyurl.com/ya4cqyhs>. Another copy, inscribed to a non-Sherlockian, is advertised at AbeBooks for only \$4,500.
978. Howard Ostrom continues to revise and expand his data-base of Sherlockian music "Under the Clock, Sherlock - Still Rockin' After All These Years"; it's a 249-page file, with images and links, and it's available on request from Howard at <howardostrom@gmail.com>.
979. "Though it pains me to admit it, I love my Kindle," writes Maggie Topkis, who presides over the publisher Felony & Mayhem <www.tinyurl.com/yc2ijkzg9> and is offering a 30% discount on e-books, including Michelle Birkby's pastiche *All Roads Lead to Whitechapel*, while sales of print books are on hold.
980. Gordon McAlpine's *Holmes Entangled* (Amherst: Seventh Street Books, 2018; 189 pp., \$13.95) begins with the discovery (by J. L. Borges in Argentina) of a manuscript written by Holmes, and continues with his account of what happened when in 1928 he was consulted by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; the tale is well told, with twists, turns, surprises, and humor. Recommended.
981. Mark Jones and Paul Chapman are continuing their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest post considers "The Case of Lady Sannox". They've also devised "Cards Against Holmanity" (their amusing version of "Cards Against Humanity"), offered as a free download at <www.bit.ly/CAHumanity> and nicely done indeed.
982. *Son of Sherlock*, by Amanda C. Raymond (Mesa: EpiphanyMill, 2017; 492 pp., \$14.95), is the story of what happens when 13-year-old Jonathan Eaton discovers that he is the son of Sherlock Holmes, then identifies his murdered mother, and soon is launched into a complicated and perilous campaign for justice, with battles against villains both high and low.

983. Laurie R. King has been keeping busy while waiting for the launch of her now Mary Russell novel *Riviera Gold* (Apr 20 #1), and there's much to see at her web-site <www.laurierking.com>, including background on the book in her "Mutterings" blog, plus a (free) download of a PDF of her short story "Mrs. Hudson's First Case" illustrated by Mary Russell fans. Laurie also has an interesting YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/user/LaurieRKing>.
 984. Rachel McMillan's *A Lesson in Love & Murder* (Eugene: Harvest House, 2018; 218 pp., \$12.99) is the second of three novels featuring Merinda Herringford and Jem Watts (two young women who would like to become detectives in the tradition of Holmes and Watson); they're set in Toronto, and this one involves radical anarchists and a member of the Royal North-West Mounted Police in 1912. The author's web-site is at <www.rachelmcmillan.net>.
 985. May 20 #6 TV Tropes (which describes itself as "the all devouring pop-culture wiki") defines a "noodle incident" as "something from the past that is sometimes referred to but never explained, with the implication that it's just too ludicrous for words—or perhaps too offensive for depiction—and the reality that any explanation would fall short of audience expectations." They've found noodle incidents in many categories, including "literature", with a number of citations for Sherlock Holmes in the Canon and its many derivatives <www.tinyurl.com/y8gnzmbu>.
 986. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London web-site has an interesting new feature: the Sherlock Holmes Gazetteer <www.gazetteer.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> that will offer images of and commentary on places suggested as locations in the Canon. It's not yet complete, but it's well worth a look.
 987. It has long been known that Queen Mary's Dolls' House has in its library the bound manuscript for Conan Doyle's pastiche "How Watson Learned the Trick" (written as his contribution to the library), but it turns out that there's another Sherlockian item in the library, mentioned in an article in the Daily Mail (May 11) <www.tinyurl.com/yaub3mmu> about a posting about the library at the Royal Family's Instagram account <www.tinyurl.com/ybo2zcg3>. The library also contains a miniature issue of The Strand Magazine with a Sherlockian article (presumably Fenn Sherie's "Sherlock Holmes on the Film", that was published in the July 1921 issue). The front and back covers can be seen at the Royal Collection's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y86z4pmd>, and it's not known (yet) whether the miniature issue actually has the article. In any case, there's now a unique variant of the magazine that completist collectors can only yearn for.
 988. When in Ooty (in India): you can stay at the Sherlock Hotel (when you can travel again, of course) <www.littleearth.in/sherlock/history.php>.
 989. Steve Doyle is hosting a new video podcast for the Baker Street Irregulars called the Fortnightly Dispatch: the first episode is his interview with Ray Betzner, discussing Vincent Starrett <www.youtu.be/5M8sWGzllUc>, and he expects to post every other Monday at the Baker Street Journal's page at Facebook and its channel at YouTube.
 990. Next year being the 70th anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition in London, Catherine Cooke <ccooke@westminster.gov.uk> would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has items, with display labels, and other original material, that were part of the Exhibition. A few items are known to have survived in library collections, the Sherlock Holmes Pub, and private collections; if you have anything from the Exhibition, please get in touch with Catherine.
 991. "Sherlock Holmes Is the Marvel Universe's Greatest Hero" is the headline on a story in Screen Rant on May 20 <www.tinyurl.com/y9n7uqkd> about the four-issue graphic-novel series *Deadpool Illustrated*, published by Marvel Entertainment in 2013 and kindly reported by Aziz Bin Adam. Screen Rant offers an explanation and some of the artwork.
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992. May 20 #7 Further to the earlier report (Apr 17 #4) on the new SHERLOCK inexpensive diagnostic tool for detecting nucleic acids from disease-carrying microbes (developed from CRISPR), there was a report in the Washington Post on May 8 <www.tinyurl.com/ybemwpgu> that the Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of a CRISPR-engineered molecule to detect the genetic signature of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. CRISPR is an acronym for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, and SHERLOCK is an acronym for Specific High Sensitivity Enzymatic Reporter unLOCKing. Feng Zhang, a molecular biologist at MIT, was a co-inventor of CRISPR and a year ago a co-founder of Sherlock Biosciences, said that "we think this has a lot of potential" in the current pandemic.
 993. S. F. Bennett's *The Secret Diary of Mycroft Holmes* (Manchester, Belanger Books, 2017; 193 p., \$12.95) is sub-titled "the thoughts and reminiscences of Sherlock Holmes' Elder Brother, 1880-1888," and it seems that Watson is not the only Canonical character who possesses an unexpected vein of pawky humor, on display in Mycroft's account of his early career, his family, and his relations with his younger brother.
 994. In 1976 the John H. Jenkins Award for Bibliography honored Ronald B. De Waal for his ground-breaking work on *The World Bibliography of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*, and for those who know little (or nothing) about Jenkins, there's a new biography of the colorful Texas antiquarian book dealer, by Michael Vinson: *Bluffing Texas Style* (Norman: Univ. Of Oklahoma Press, 2020; 250 pp., \$45.00). It's full of grand stories about Jenkins' "arsons, forgeries, and high-stakes poker capers," as well as his timely and mysterious death, and there are passing mentions of three members of the Baker Street Irregulars (Stillman Drake, Christopher Morley, and Lew David Feldman).
 995. Paul Thomas Miller's "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (Mar 19 #4), a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes," has published *However Improbable* (a new "scrapbook of strange Holmesiana"), available as a (free) download at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yb4rmqx6>; it's their second book, and the contents are amusing and interesting, as well as strange.
 996. Geek Tyrant had an interesting interview (with video) on May 24 with VFX artists who worked on the visual effects in four films, one of which was "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011) <www.tinyurl.com/y73hu7bl>.
 997. *Sheerluck Versus the Paranormal: Volume One* (London: MX Published, 2018; 90 pp., \$9.95) is the first of three graphic novels written by Dean Wilkinson and illustrated by Joseph Keen, offering an amusing account of what happens when Sheerluck and his sister Watson become involved (in this volume) with zombies, cursed paintings, slender man, and doppelgangers. MX's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
 998. And: T. L. Garrison's *The Twisted Blackmailer* (2016; 280 pp., \$14.95) is a fine pastiche for young adults: Sherlock Holmes and Joanna Watson are both teen-age girls who meet in high school and become partners, investigating cases that echo the Canon; the story's nicely told, and the girls are both appropriate and believable.
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1000. May 20 #8 Fred Willard died on May 15. A highly-regarded comic actor, he was well-known for his unscripted appearances in films and on television. He was seen in Sherlockian costume in the “Hostess to Murder” episode of “Just Shoot Me” (1999) and was more or less Sherlockian in “Best of Show” (2000) and “For Your Consideration” (2006); you can see him in action in Scott Monty’s tribute at his “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog at www.tinyurl.com/y8qoendk.
1001. Sorry about that: with regard to the item about Banksy and his image of a distant relative of the Giant Rat of Sumatra (Apr 20 #6), it’s Jean Upton who’s now the editor of The District Messenger, which still is distributed by Roger Johnson.
1002. Jean reports in the May issue of The District Messenger that Bert Coules has been working on a one-man stage show “Watson: The Final Problem” to be performed by Tim Marriott when theaters open again. In the meantime, you can watch a video trailer for the play and listen to a one-hour audio version at their web-site www.smokescreenprods.com.
1003. The “Holmes in the Heartland” conference that was scheduled in St. Louis on July 24-26 www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpi has been postponed until summer 2021.
1004. The on-going pandemic means that there’s not much theater scheduled, but there are plans for at least a few productions. “Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Miss Alice Faulkner” (an adaptation of Gillette’s “Sherlock Holmes”) will be performed at the Molino Community Center in Molino, Fla., July 31-Aug. 1 www.tinyurl.com/y7p3nfad.
1005. Tal Aviezer’s “Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Copper Beeches” has been scheduled at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., Aug. 14-23 www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org.
1006. Mark Shanahan’s new “A Sherlock Carol” will be performed as a script-in-hand reading at the Westport Country Playhouse in Westport., Conn., Dec. 14 www.westportplayhouse.com.
1007. Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville” will be performed at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre in Arlington Heights, Ill., Jan. 28-Mar. 13; their web-site’s at www.metropolisarts.com. It’s also scheduled (in Swedish) at the Åbo Svenska Teater in Turku, Finland, in Jan. www.abovenskatheater.fi.
1008. Ken Ludwig’s new “Moriarty” will have its world premiere at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Apr. 17-May 16 www.cincyplay.com.
1009. Steven Canny and John Nicholson’s “The Hound of the Baskervilles” will be performed at the California Theatre in Pittsburg, Calif., in the summer of 2021 www.pittsburgcommunitytheatre.org.
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1010. Jun 20 #1 Those who have been waiting patiently for full details on the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York will be glad to hear that the reports now are available at www.tinyurl.com/ybj4grub. Steve Doyle’s video podcasts for the Baker Street Irregulars are continuing at YouTube; you can search for [fortnightly dispatch] to find interviews with Ray Betzner, Bob Katz, and others. If you would like to receive more of this sort of news from the BSI, you should sign up for occasional messages at the BSI’s web-site www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-news-via-email.
1011. The manuscript of “The Land of Mist”, on offer in a private sale at Christie’s (May 20 #3), will be included in an on-line public auction that opens on July 9 and closes on July 30 www.tinyurl.com/ybp7g8tw. Randall Stock provides a discussion of the manuscript at his “Best of Sherlock” web-site www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm.
1012. Sherlockian collectors will be more interested in the offer of the manuscript of “The Greek Interpreter”, offered by Sotheby’s in an on-line auction that opens on July 6 and closes on July 21 www.tinyurl.com/y76zzrso (the estimate is \$400,000-\$600,000). Randall’s description of this manuscript is at www.tinyurl.com/y84j47g6.
1013. “Drat! The Cat!” was a short-lived (11 previews and 8 performances) Broadway musical that came and went in 1965; the score included a song “Holmes and Watson” that was sung by Lesley Ann Warren and Elliott Gould. A publicity photograph recently offered at eBay www.tinyurl.com/yac8ytr9 is a nice reminder of the show (I’m not aware of any Sherlockian who actually saw the musical).
1014. The South Carolina State Museum in Columbia, S.C. www.scmuseum.org has opened to the public, and the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is still there, extended into September. The exhibition’s due at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., from Oct. 1, 2021 to Mar. 21, 2022.
1015. The Mysterious Bookshop posts to its customers helpful reading lists compiled by authors, and here’s what Lyndsay Faye wrote when recommending *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*: “These books are the best 60 short stories and novels ever to happen, but it’s not ultimately about how they solve crime or embark on adventures. These tales are about the most beautiful literary friendship I’ve ever seen. They helped define who I am as a person, and that’s not an exaggeration. Some of my best connections, life decisions, clarifying moments, and wonderful challenges were about these characters helping me figure out who I am.”
1016. If you’ve watched any of the German television programs that starred Erich Schellow and Paul Edwin Roth in 1967 and 1968 (May 20 #4) and thought the dramatizations were familiar, there’s a reason: Bert Coules notes that the scripts were adapted from the BBC’s television series that starred Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock.
1017. Jun 20 #2 “Conan Doyle slept here” may not be heard and read as often as “George Washington slept here” when it comes to old houses and hotels, but Prince Hall in Princetown, Dartmoor, formerly a private home and now a hotel www.princehall.co.uk, says at its web-site that “it is thought that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stayed at Prince Hall and was inspired by the surrounding countryside to write *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.”
1018. Alexander Orlov has discovered an imaginative caricature of Conan Doyle, published in *Caricatures by Tom Tit* (1913); “Tom Tit” was the pen name of Arthur Good (1853-1928), a French engineer, science educator, journalist, author, artist, and caricaturist. The book has been digitized and is available at the Internet Archive www.tinyurl.com/y8vwwcve.
1019. Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge, the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of India, is now in its eighth year. The current issue (with 240 pages) offers colorfully illustrated scholarship, commentary, pastiches, the script of an audio play, and a quiz; all issues of the Proceedings can be found at the society web-site www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com.

1020. My Modern Met reported on June 8 about an imaginative Sherlockian DIY Book Nook Kit <www.mymodernmet.com/hemisphere-design-book-nooks>. It's sold by Creative Design at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/yceo9n>b> (£74.32), and it will be a nice Christmas present for any do-it-yourselfers who have any room on their shelves.
1021. Further to the earlier reports on SHERLOC and WATSON (Apr 14 #2 and Apr 19 #5), the instruments are ready for their exploration of Mars. The mission is scheduled for launch between July 17 and Aug. 5, according to a report from Firstpost on May 29 <www.tinyurl.com/y8v6j4o4>. SHERLOC (an acronym for Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organ-ics and Chemicals) is a spectrometer that will be working with WATSON (a camera that will take close-up pictures of rock textures). The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's colorful press release on exploration of the Red Planet is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yafo2xve>, and there is more about SHERLOC at <www.tinyurl.com/y95s4ln6>. And WATSON (also an acronym) is NASA's Wide Angle Topographic Sensor for Operations and eNgeineering.
1022. Almost Canonical: "Discard the impossible; then if *nothing* remains, some part of the 'impossible' must be possible." Who said it?
1023. Basil Rathbone once was asked whether he preferred playing Sherlock Holmes in films or on the radio, and he explained that acting on radio is by far more fun, "because no one can see what you look like." Perhaps the best example of this is the dramatization by Bert Coules of "A Scandal in Bohemia" for BBC Radio 4 in 1990, with Clive Merrison as Sherlock Holmes and Michael Williams as Dr. Watson. The King of Bohemia was played by Andrew Sachs (whom you may remember as Manuel, the Spanish Waiter in the television series "Fawlty Towers"). You can hear him as the King of Bohemia at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI8Cs_2_3ko>.
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1024. Jun 20 #3 A wide variety of audiobooks are available (without charge) on the Internet, at web-sites such as LibriVox, including Sherlockian and Doylean titles, and parodies and pastiches such as J. Kendrick Bangs' *The Pursuit of the House-Boat* and Mark Twain's *The Double-Barreled Detective Story* (you can search for author or title, so you need to know what you're looking for) <www.librivox.org>.
1025. Graham Reid has died. He was a British actor who began his career in the early 1990s, performing as Graham Martin, and he played Sherlock Holmes in Tim Churchill's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 2018.
1026. Phoebe Judge reads classic mysteries, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at her "This Is Criminal" blog <www.thisiscriminal.com/mystery>.
1027. Don Hobbs continues to expand his "Galactic Sherlock Holmes" data-base of foreign translations (which now has almost 11,000 entries) and many full-color illustrations, and would be glad to hear from anyone who has found something that's not already in the data-base; the latest version is now available on request and without charge (as a 430-MB file via WeTransfer) <221b@verizon.net>.
1028. Spotted by Alexander Orlov: "Sherlock Holmes Is on the Case" is the title of an amusing animated video that was uploaded to YouTube by the American Dental Association on Oct. 16, 2019 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=86u1Mip2b90>.
1029. Ruth Berman kindly forwarded an almost-Canonical "Discard the impossible; then if *nothing* remains, some part of the 'impossible' must be possible." Who said it? Sherlock Holmes' cousin Dr. Horace Verner, in Anthony Boucher's "The Anomaly of the Empty Man" (first published in Fantasy & Science Fiction (Apr. 1952).
1030. Further to the item (Oct 19 #2) about Felix Dennis' "Garden of Heroes and Villains" in Dorsington, Howard Ostrom has reported a post about the garden <www.tinyurl.com/y8wlp56v> by someone who blogs as peribrown and has a number of interesting posts under the heading "Sherlockian Sojourns"; this one offers images of many of the garden's life-size bronze sculptures, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes.
1031. BBC Radio Four Extra celebrated a Sherlock Holmes Weekend on June 13-14, and the good news is that the programs will be available at their web-site well into July; the programs are Peter Mackie's "The Adventure of the Pimlico Poisoner" (1990) and Nicholas Utechin's three-hour "The Game's Afoot: Sherlock Holmes Special" with some delightful treasures from the BBC archives (2008), and links are available at the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yclqkpgu>.
1032. Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine has a long history of offering Sherlockian and Doylean content, and that's also true of its web-site, where web-only content in "The Crime Scene" includes podcasts with readings of Sherlockian pastiches by Steve Steinbock and Terence Faherty, and Dean Jobb's blog "Stranger Than Fiction" with a two-part discussion of "Finding Sherlock" <www.elleryqueenmysterymagazine.com>.
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1033. Jun 20 #4 Philip Purser-Hallard's *Sherlock Holmes: The Spider's Web* (New York: Titan, 2020; 261 pp., \$14.95) is an amusing cross-over pastiche in which Holmes and Watson investigate a complicated mystery in a London populated by characters created by Oscar Wilde; plot and dialogue are thoroughly appropriate. Lenny Picker's interview with Purser-Hallard for Publishers Weekly (June 1) <www.tinyurl.com/yarudl7k> provides a nice behind-the-scenes look at how the book was written.
1034. There's much more Sherlockian (and Doylean) material in Publishers Weekly, and the magazine has kindly made its current and archival content available without charge to all during the pandemic <www.tinyurl.com/yd5sznre>. The magazine was founded in 1872, and their first Conan Doyle item was a mention of his story "My Friend the Murderer" in 1883. A search turns up 2,906 hits for [conan doyle] and 3,354 for [sherlock holmes], which will keep researcher busy for a while.
1035. The late August Derleth, who created Solar Pons as a tribute to Sherlock Holmes, also was a great admirer of H. P. Lovecraft's tales of supernatural horror and terror, and Derrick Belanger has edited *The Necronomicon of Solar Pons* (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2020; 429 pp., \$24.95) as a tribute to both of Derleth's enthusiasms; it's an anthology of a dozen cross-over pastiches, subtitled as "Lovecraftian Tales of the Sherlock Holmes of Praed Street," and that's just what they are.
1036. Derrick also has edited *The Pontine Dossier: Millennium Edition*, a revival of the journal published by the late Luther Norris, founder of the Praed Street Irregulars (2020; 85 pp., \$7.99), with eight new essays about Derleth and Pons. It should be noted that the August Derleth Society, founded in the late 1970s, continues to honor the author and his works; their web-site's at <www.augustderleth.org>.
1037. And there's more: *Sherlock Holmes Is Everywhere*, edited by David Marcum, Sonia Fetherston, and Derrick Belanger (2019; 302 pp., \$19.99), is an interesting anthology of essays written by long-time Sherlockians and newcomers about the many ways that they have found and enjoyed the

- world of Sherlock Holmes. *Sherlock Holmes: Adventures in the Realms of Edgar A lan Poe*, edited by Brian and Derrick Belanger (2019; 369 pp., \$24.95), is an anthology of fourteen-crossover pastiches that bring Holmes and Watson into the many worlds of Poe.
1038. Further to the report (Apr 20 6) on “Sherlock Holmes in Russia” (the new Russian television mini-series due later this year) Variety published an interview on June 9 <www.tinyurl.com/ybrhyzj3> with Nurbek Egen, director of the series (which now is called “Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles”).
1039. Katy Perry, a singer, songwriter, and judge (on the ABC-TV television series “American Idol”) has issued five albums, with a sixth on the way. She also has written some songs that have not been released; she recently said in an interview that her favorite unreleased song is “Sherlock Holmes” (“I always think that song needed a lyric change and a rerecord on all fronts and it would be great!”). She wrote the song with Glen Ballard, and their lyrics are available on the Internet <www.tinyurl.com/ycbwlbzn>.
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1040. Jun 20 #5 Noted by Dana Richards: “My Blushes, Watson!” is the title of an amusing post by Dales James Nelson a few years ago at Sven Sellanraa’s “Orthosphere” blog <www.tinyurl.com/yab434ck>. The subtitle is “Of Blood, Blushing, Whistling, & Holding Hands” and the post explores how different things could be in Canonical times.
1041. Aziz Bin Adam notes that Iconic VIP Tours offers a Sherlock Holmes Virtual Escape Room Adventure via Zoom <www.tinyurl.com/y8nn4hps>. There are other literary escape rooms for non-Sherlockians <www.iconicviptours.com>.
1042. The Rat and Raven is the name of new pub in Lexington, N.C., according to a report in the Lexington Dispatch (June 14) <www.tinyurl.com/yabjl7fd>; owners Charlie and Layne McCarn inspiration for the name of the pub “was an old Sherlock Holmes movie, where Holmes and Watson duck into a pub with that same name.” So: which movie?
1043. Fans who enjoy playing the Sherlock Holmes computer games created by Frogwares will welcome their announcement (with a trailer) <www.frogwares.com> of a new “Sherlock Holmes: Chapter One” prequel due for release in 2021.
1044. Jennie Paton has discovered Adagio Teas, which advertises a wide range of imaginatively-named and variously-flavored blends of Sherlockian tea, at <www.adagio.com/signature_blend.html?blend-90697>.
1045. “Dear Holmes” (reviewed in the N.Y. Times Book Review on June 7) was created by Michael Silver at Letterjoy <www.dearholmes.com> and offers monthly mysteries-by-mail.
1046. Dennis J. O’Neil died on June 11. Best known for revitalizing Batman during his career at Marvel Comics, he was a legendary comic-book writer and editor (sometimes credited as Denny O’Neil); he also worked at DC Comics, where he brought Sherlock Holmes to the public in the 1970s and 1980s.
1047. The Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, held last October in Portland, Ore., will be held on-line this year on Oct. 19, promising “a fun and educational day of talks, socializing, and friendship” in the image of A Scintillation of Scions. More information, including their list of speakers, will be found at their web-site at <www.leftcoastsherlock.com>.
1048. Ruth Berman has reported sad news from Minneapolis: Uncle Hugo’s/Uncle Edgar’s, the joint science-fiction/mystery bookstores owned by Don and Elizabeth Blyly, were set on fire during the recent demonstrations there, and burned to the ground. You can read their detailed report on the tragedy at their web-site <www.unclehugo.com/prod/index.shtml>.
1049. “Frederic Dorr Steele: Forgotten Master” is the title of a 9-minute video at a new GoFundMe web-site <www.bit.ly/FDSteele> for a campaign to raise money for a memorial to the artist whose work personified Sherlock Holmes for American readers. After his death in 1944 his ashes were interred in his family’s plot in a cemetery in Menands, N.Y., but no stone marks his resting place. The campaign achieved quick success, but information (and the video) still can be found at the GoFundMe web-site.
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1050. Jun 20 #6 Ray Wilcockson has made a delightful discovery in the pages of digitized Irish newspapers: Sherlock Holmes and Mycroft Holmes were recorded as passengers leaving Kingstown on the Royal Mail steamer on Set. 27, 1897, and again on Sep. 27, 1899. He gave a detailed account of his research in his “Markings” blog on June 14 <www.tinyurl.com/ybokhaa4>, with images of the newspaper items.
1051. Hannah McNally was one of the finalists in the competition to illustrate the Folio Society’s *The Selected Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* (2019), and her striking artwork for the cover and three of the stories is available at <www.society6.com/abeyance> on a wide variety of merchandise.
1052. “Meitantei Conan” [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gyosho Aoyama, then developed into a long-running animated television series, and then animated films; Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who is turned by villains into a child, and assumes the name Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle) and pursues evil-doers. The English-language version is called “Case Closed” and there’s a series of DVDs: “The Phantom of Baker Street” (released in Japan in 2002, and with subtitles in English in 2010) has Conan and his friends trapped in a virtual recreation of 19th-century London, pursuing Jack the Ripper; the cast of characters includes Mrs. Hudson, Irene Adler, Sebastian Moran, and James Moriarty, and Sherlock Holmes makes a brief appearance. The DVD is out-of-print, but you can find copies offered at eBay.
1053. Ann Treherne’s *Arthur and Me* (2020; 264 pp., £8.99) tells the story of her discovery of the psychic world, her seances, and her communications with Conan Doyle, who helped her find the derelict building that’s now the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh <www.arthurconandoylecentre.com>; her book offers a detailed look at modern-day spiritualism.
1054. “Arthur Conan Doyle” is a new music video that was uploaded to YouTube by Alien Tango Entertainment on June 3 <www.tinyurl.com/yctxsm23>. It’s performed by Alberto and Oso Peligro, and it’s nice indeed that closed captions help one understand the lyrics.
1055. In which movie did Holmes and Watson “duck” into a pub called the Rat and Raven? It was “Sherlock Holmes Faces Death” (1943) (the pub sign in the movie actually reads “The Rat and the Raven”).
1056. David Lambert’s latest contribution to The Strand Magazine’s blog is “The Razor-Potato Man” (analyzing Harlan Ellison’s short story “He Who Grew Up Reading Sherlock Holmes”) on May 23. Ellison’s story was first published in 2014, and Lambert has some interesting commentary.

1057. Deadline has reported (June 15) <www.tinyurl.com/y9yr4vae> that the team behind Netflix's "Astronomy Club" are moving onward and upward following the cancellation of their sketch comedy show and have partnered with "The Problem with Apu" producer Cowboy Bear Ninja on "Sherlock Homies" (a comedy series that they describe as "'Curb Your Enthusiasm' meets 'Reno 911' about Harlem's first all-black detective agency." It would seem that the only Sherlockian aspect of the series, if it ever gets made, is the title.
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1058. Jun 20 #7 One of the nice things about modern technology is that it is now so easy to attend distant meetings of Sherlockian societies, using Zoom or other programs. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's first virtual meeting, open to Sherlockians world-wide, is set for July 21 at 7:30 pm BST, and you are invited to contact Jane Arnold-Forster <janeaf@btinternet.com> so that she can send you meeting details.
1059. The roster of Sherlockian societies holding virtual meetings continues to grow; the following list surely must be incomplete, and any additions will be welcome: the Bootmakers of Toronto, the Cesspudlians of London [Ontario], the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star* [Dallas], the Curious Collectors of Baker Street [Los Angeles], Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients [Denver], Five Miles from Anywhere, the Goose Club of the Alpha Inn [Vermont], the Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn [St. Charles MO], the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club [Tokyo], the John Openshaw Society [Houston], the Knights of the Gnomon, the Notorious Canary Trainers [Madison WI], the Norwegian Explorers Study Group [Minneapolis], the Outpatients [Denver], the Parallel Case of St. Louis, the Priory Scholars of New York, the Red Circle of Washington, the Reichenbach Irregulars, the Sherlock Holmes Goose Club of the Upper Valley [Hanover NH], the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Sherlockians of Baltimore, the Six Napoleons of Baltimore, the Sound of the Baskervilles [Seattle], the Tankerville Club [Cincinnati], Theatre-Goers Homeward Bound, the Three Garridebs of Westchester County [NY], The Torists International [Chicago], and Watson's Tin Box [Ellicott City MD].
1060. The next annual 221B Con (a well-attended "fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes") will be held in Atlanta, Apr. 19-21 <www.221bcon.com>. Next year's Scintillation of Scions will be held in Linthicum, Md., Aug. 6-7. <www.scintillation.org>.
1061. Inscribed first editions of Conan Doyle's books (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian) are far from common. An inscribed copy of the first edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* was offered by Lucius Books for £85,000 last month at Firsts (the London book fair held on-line this year during the pandemic); it's still available <www.tinyurl.com/ybpbwqnx>.
1062. Sarah LeFanu's *Something of Themselves* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020; 381 pp., \$29.95), is sub-titled "Kipling, Kingsley, Conan Doyle, and the Anglo-Boer War," and it's a well-written history of the war, focusing on three writers who were in South Africa in 1900; Mary Kingsley, far less well known than the other two writers, is just as interesting, and LeFanu offers a grand story, well told.
1063. Reported by Nicholas Utechin: a new Sherlock Holmes Magazine published in Britain <www.sherlockholmesmag.co.uk> and already out of print.
1064. "Shermlock Shomes!" (a delightful parody, written by Harvey Kurtzman and illustrated by Bill Elder) appeared in Mad magazine (Oct.-Nov. 1953). The original artwork (all eight pages) will be offered at Heritage Auctions in July <www.tinyurl.com/ycstlg3j>; it has attracted some serious bidders: as we go to press, the current high bid is \$10,500.
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1065. Jun 20 #8 Joseph W. Svec III's *Sherlock Holmes and the Round Table Adventure* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 169 pp., \$10.95) is the third book in his "missing authors" series; this time Alfred Lord Tennyson has gone missing, and Holmes and Watson encounter pixies, dragons, a unicorn, Merlin, Morgan le Faye, gnomes, the Lady of the Lake, Guinevere, and King Arthur before they are able to rescue the Poet Laureate. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.
1066. Also: Molly Carr's *A Study in Crimson* (2010; 322 pp., \$19.95), the second volume in the further adventures of Mrs. Watson and Mrs. St. Clair (they are the Watson-Fanshaw Detective Agency); Holmes and Watson are on hand, along with Moriarty and many others, and everyone is rather different from how they will be remembered by those who have read the Canon. James Moffett's *The Trials of Sherlock Holmes* (2017; 228 pp., \$14.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of criminals in eight cases that end with a confrontation with a vicious adversary.
1067. Plus: Balaji Narasimhan's *Sleight of Fate and Various Sherlock Holmes Puzzles* (2013; 107 pp., \$9.95) opens with a murderous challenge and continues with essays and pastiches set in India; it concludes with an exploration of Indian astrology used by Holmes to predict an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 1944. L. F. E. Coombs' *Sherlock Holmes Plays the Game* (2014; 243 pp., \$16.96) is a collection of ten pastiches, many of which were brought to Holmes and Watson by Scotland Yard inspector Shershay. Phil Growick's *The Secret Journal of Dr. Watson* (2012; 285 pp., \$18.95) sends Holmes and Watson to Russia in 1918 to rescue the Tsar and his family; the top-secret mission results in dire events and a thoroughly complicated mystery.
1068. There's still Sherlockian theater being performed during the pandemic, but on-line: you can watch the Children's Theatre of Annapolis presentation of Tom Considine's amusing one-act play "The Duck of the Baskervilles" (featuring Shylock Casa and Portia Watsonia in "a quacking good case") at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=biFIS7XwQ2g>. The script is available as a PDF from <www.offthewallplays.com>.
1069. Planning ahead: "Sherlock Holmes and the Strange Case of Alice Faulkner" (an adaptation of the Gillette play) will be performed at the Molino Community Center in Molino, Fla., July 31-Aug. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/y7p3nfdq>.
1070. "Sherlock and Cinders" (a new musical written by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey), formerly scheduled on July 3-4 at the Carver Theatre in Stockport, Cheshire, has been postponed to Oct. 9-10 <www.carvertheatre.co.uk>.
1071. "Sherlock Holmes and the Blue Carbuncle" is due at the Helen Borgers Theatre in Long Beach, Calif., Nov. 20-Dec. 13 <www.lbshakespeare.org>.
1072. David MacGregor's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" will be performed at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., Mar. 25-Apr. 29, 2021 <www.purplerosetheatre.org>.
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1073. Jul 20 #1 USA Today's "first look" story (June 24) about the new "Enola Holmes" film <www.tinyurl.com/yba5l6ml> was overtaken by the news that the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. has filed a lawsuit against just about everyone who had anything to do with the film, alleging that the film infringes on the CDEL's copyright on the few remaining Canonical stories not yet in the public domain. You can read the 19-page complaint at <www.tinyurl.com/y7khds83>, and the CDEL's brief statement about the lawsuit is available on-line at <www.conandoyleestate.com/news/enola-holmes>.
1074. The complaint says that Conan Doyle, after his brother and son died in the First World War, felt that "it was no longer enough that the Holmes character was the most brilliant rational and analytical mind. Holmes needed to be human. The character needed to develop human connection

- and empathy.” Thus a Holmes that demonstrates friendship and emotion is an infringement on stories still protected by copyright, according to the CDEL.
1075. The film, tentatively scheduled on Netflix in September, is based on six novels by Nancy Springer that were published from 2006 to 2010, and features Millie Bobby Brown as Enola Holmes, Henry Cavill as Sherlock Holmes, Sam Claflin as Mycroft Holmes, and Helena Bonham Carter as their mother.
1076. The lawsuit is similar to the one filed against the Ian McKellen film “Mr. Holmes” in 2015. That suit was settled out of court, and the DVD of the film and the Kindle edition of Mitch Cullin’s *A Slight Trick of the Mind* now have a statement acknowledging the CDEL’s permission to use material from Sherlock Holmes stories protected by copyright. Scott Monty has an interesting discussion of both lawsuits at www.tinyurl.com/y7gkqrkz, and a 2015 interview with Cullin at www.tinyurl.com/y88x64cq.
1077. Den of Geek quoted Nicholas Meyer on June 26 www.tinyurl.com/y9dk5enc as saying that while he did pay the Conan Doyle estate for permission to publish his first three pastiches (in 1974, 1976, and 1993) he didn’t for his *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols* (2019) and won’t be paying for his next pastiche *The Return of the Pharaoh* (due in 2021). The estate “has a long and complicated history” Meyer said, adding that “The estate has become various squabbling heirs—most of them having nothing to do with Doyle and still less interested in Holmes, except as a source of money to spend. They’ve used Holmes rights as a cash cow for their own pleasure.”
1078. The story continues: the defendants have “filed an appearance” in the case (which gives them time to prepare and file a formal response to the complaint by the CDEL), so there will be more to come in the next few weeks.
1079. “The hardcopy texts are surrounded by on-line material (screenplays, reviews, fansubs, scanlations, etc.)” That’s according to the abstract of Mary Wardle’s “From Baker Street to Toyko and Back” (discovered by Jennie Paton) www.journals.openedition.org/palimpsests/3582; the academic paper deals with “(para)textual hybridity in translation” and offers a fine example of how new words are being coined. Google kindly defines “fansub” and “scanlation” for (I suspect) many if not most of us.
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1080. Jul 20 #2 Literary experts and academics fear the Sherlock Holmes statue in Edinburgh may be targeted by activists because of the many “crass racist descriptions” in the Canon, according to an article by Tim Stewart in The Times (July 6); he cited problematic language (in “The Sign of the Four” and “The Three Gables”) and noted that Conan Doyle is “said to have believed in British superiority and was a staunch supporter of the Empire.” Several statues linked to the slave trade have been damaged during Black Lives Matter demonstrations. The article does not mention the statue of Holmes in Baker Street, nor the statue of Conan Doyle in Crowborough.
1081. It’s not Sherlockian or Doylean, but: it’s not easy to choose a title for a short story that makes you want to read it. “Mary Poppins Didn’t Have Tattoos” for example; that’s a story by Stacy Woodson in the July/August issue of Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine.
1082. George J. McCormack (“Hosmer Angel”) died on Apr. 2. His early interest in Sherlock Holmes resulted in his being a co-founder of the Diogenes Club Brooklyn when he was a senior at Brooklyn Preparatory School, and he went on to graduate from Fordham University and Harvard Law School and then had a long and successful career as an attorney. He attended his first annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1959, received his Investiture in 1961, and went on to set a record for continuous attendance at 60 BSI annual dinners.
1083. The Internet can be a spectacular resource for people who want to research (or merely read) older publications such as The Strand Magazine; the Hathi Trust offers links to digitizations of the first 68 volumes (through 1924) www.catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000642318; later volumes have been digitized, but are not yet available due to copyright restrictions (the volumes for 1925 will be available at the end of this year).
1084. Jean Upton reports (in the June issue of The District Messenger) that the web-site of the London Transport Museum www.tinyurl.com/ybsnn75v offers a nice selection of Sherlockian images from the history of the underground and of the decorations at the Baker Street Station.
1085. Virtual meetings of Sherlockian societies do seem to ignore geography: the Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland will hold their second Zoom meeting on Sept. 3 at 7:00 pm BST (that’s British Summer Time): Michael Meer will talk about “The Other War Service of Sherlock Holmes: The Master Detective in World War I Prison Camps” and anyone interested joining should contact Marcus Geisser reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com.
1086. Michael McClure has created an imaginative new board game (“The Original Sherlock Holmes and His Baker Street Irregulars”), and there’s a detailed and nicely-illustrated report at Scott Monty’s “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” blog www.tinyurl.com/yy57ppzv; you may recognize some of the images on the character cards. The cost of the game is \$39.00 through the August (\$55.00 thereafter) www.baskervilleproductions.com/shbsi; production is underway, with shipping planned for November, conveniently in time for Christmas.
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1087. Jul 20 #3 Simon Barnes’ *Ten Million Aliens* (New York: Marble Arch Press, 2015; 480 pp., \$28.00) is a delightful book, offering “a journey through the entire animal kingdom” in short chapters that are devoted to the ten million (that’s his estimate) species known and yet to be identified on our planet, and the writers he mentions include Adams, Kipling, Disraeli, Joyce, Dahl, Verne, Dylan, and (of course) Conan Doyle (in the chapter on “Infernal agony of gelatinous zooplankton”). Recommended.
1088. “Police Sketches of Literary Characters Based on Their Book Descriptions” was an article on Mental Floss (Jan. 8, 2016) about illustrator Brian Joseph Davis’ use of the law enforcement composite sketch software FACES ID
1089. www.tinyurl.com/y7svwmhn; one of the characters is Sherlock Holmes (as described in “A Study in Scarlet”).
1090. Reported: “Cobble & Fog (Unmatched)” is a “highly asymmetrical card-driven miniature fighting game featuring heroes from myth and legend,” with four characters: Sherlock Holmes, Jekyll & Hyde, the Invisible Man, and Dracula; there are two different battlefields (Soho and Baskerville Manor), and there’s more information at www.restorationgames.com (\$40.00).
1091. There’s also “The Great Game” that Alexa will help you play on your Amazon Echo; it’s free, with an option to purchase bonus content, and you’ll find more information at Sherlockian.net www.tinyurl.com/ydayd5sq. Sherlockian.net was created by Chris Redmond in 1994 and now is maintained by WIDE Research at Michigan State University, and it’s well worth exploring.

1092. The web-site "Casebook: Jack the Ripper" <www.casebook.org> offers items of Sherlockian interest, such as a "Sherlock: From Adler to Amberley" podcast that is working its way through the 56 short stories; Karl Coppack is the host for one-hour interviews with authors and experts who include Les Klinger ("The Five Orange Pips") and Bonnie MacBird ("The Speckled Band").
1093. When you can travel again: Karen Murdock found a long and favorable review of the Holmes Hotel (formerly the Sherlock Holmes Hotel) in London at the Business Traveler web-site <www.tinyurl.com/wgwhzl6>. They also had nice things to say earlier this year <www.tinyurl.com/y8jboxek> about the Great Scotland Yard Hotel; both reviews are well illustrated.
1094. Further to the item (Apr 20 #1) about the "incredible book collection" of Kate Middleton (aka the Duchess of Cambridge, wife of Prince William), Sonia Fetherston reports that Kate's brother, James Middleton, has written an essay for the Daily Mail (June 28) <www.tinyurl.com/yask95k4> about his new hobby: beekeeping. "On a warm summer's day," he explains, "there are few places on Earth I'd rather be than tending my bees."
1095. Howard Ostrom has found a weird sub-set of ASMR audios at YouTube (ASMR is autonomous sensory meridian response, also known as "brain massage"). You can search for [asmr sherlock holmes] to find them; the longest one is at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJeNG1R7FzM> (four hours of ambient noise in the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street), and another one is Holmes and Watson's 40-minute train ride to Dartmoor <www.youtube.com/watch?v=psOFdDRWseU>.
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1096. Jul 20 #4 Cory Howell has an interesting post ("Inspector Watson? An Alternate History Twist") at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog about a startling discovery at the Ill Bethisad Wiki at <www.tinyurl.com/ychedxtts>. The great detective in this alternative Canonical universe is an Inspector Watson who lives at 221A Quaker Street; many of his fans call themselves the Quaker Street Irregulars, and there's much fun to be had in this imaginative world.
1097. It's a nice reminder of the fun the late John Ruyle had with his Turlock Loams, who also lived in Quaker Street; John presided over two societies: The Quaker Street Irregulars and the Old Soldiers of Quaker Street, both parodies of Solar Pons societies created by the late Luther Norris as parodies of Sherlock Holmes societies. Anyone who tells you that the world of Sherlockian societies isn't complicated shouldn't be trusted.
1098. "Meiringen" (by ABBA SPARVA, featuring Brenda the Headless Mannequin) is a three-minute music video, based on an original idea by Brad Keefauver and uploaded to YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yadl4xmq> on June 20 by Paul Thomas Miller. Brad is the founder of the Reichenbach Falls Lemming Society, and Brad has a YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/watch?v=srtCEmPqoM> with many additional Sherlockian music videos.
1099. The Royal Mint has issued a commemorative £5 coin that honors music legend Elton John <www.tinyurl.com/y99c7jv9>; he was executive producer for the animated film "Sherlock Gnomes" (2018), and he wrote and performed some of the songs.
1100. Catching up: Catherine Cooke received the British Empire Medal "for services to libraries" in this year's New Year's Honours List. She presides over the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Westminster Reference Library in London, a Member of Council of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and Investiture as "The Book of Life" in the Baker Street Irregulars
1101. When in Ontario: you can spend a night in the Arthur Conan Doyle room at the Arlington Hotel in Paris (a bit more than an hour's drive from Toronto); the hotel has 23 rooms, each themed for "some of our favourite authors and creative minds" <www.arlingtonhotel.ca>.
1102. Carl Reiner died on June 29. He had a long career as a comic, director, and actor, famous for his appearance with Mel Brooks in their "2,000-Year-Old-Man" skit, and for being (as Billy Crystal called him) "a nice genius". You can see him in Sherlockian costume (as Chief Inspector House) in the "Who Killed Supersleuth?" episode of "Burke's Law" (Dec. 16, 1964, on ABC-TV) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zfMZUI8S7A>
1103. It should also be noted that Carl Reiner appears as a home craftsman in photographs in G. A. Mills' *A Saw Screams at Midnight* (1956), which was sub-titled "the whodunit-yourself book" and contains a Sherlockian parody ("The Adventure of the Purloined Pants"); it's possible, perhaps even probable, that Carl Reiner wrote the book using a pseudonym (no one has been able to track down Mr. Mills).
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1104. Jul 20 #5 It's always nice to see the results of combining two enthusiasms. Clifford Goldfarb does just that in his article "Winston Churchill and Arthur Conan Doyle—Finest of the Empire" in the summer issue of *Canadian Holmes* (which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto). Cliff has carefully researched Churchill and Conan Doyle's meetings and correspondence. *Canadian Holmes* costs \$30.00 a year (US or CA), and single issues cost \$12.00 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.
1105. When in Southsea: Sherlock's Bar has opened in Clarendon Road, according to a story in the Portsmouth News <www.tinyurl.com/y8hph2sv>; "the venue has been themed around Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary detective character, decorated with memorabilia and a Sherlock décor," and there's a bit of video accompanying the story.
1106. MX Publishing has launched a Kickstarter campaign for Maureen Whittaker's new biography of Jeremy Brett; details on the book and campaign, as well as an interview with the author, are available at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/y5flx9ge>.
1107. Julian Curry died on June 27. He began his acting career in television on the BBC, and went on to perform on stage and screen. Perhaps best known for playing Claude Erskine-Brown on "Rumpole of the Bailey", he also appeared as Albert Shlessinger in "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" in the Granada series (1991), and as Sherlock Holmes in a commercial for OZ Kettle Descaler in the 1980s <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHQ5YKbLTBs>.
1108. "Without Julian Wolff's involvement, the Baker Street Irregulars might no longer exist," and Sonia Fetherston tells us all about that in *Commissionaire: Julian Wolff and His Baker Street Irregulars* (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2020; 176 pp., \$21.95) <www.tinyurl.com/yb2gpxxq>.
1109. Steve Doyle's video podcasts for the Baker Street Irregulars continue at YouTube; you can search for [fortnightly dispatch] to find interviews with Ray Betzner, Bob Katz, Carlina de la Cova, Les Klinger, and Denny Dobry.
1110. Janina Woods' *Mycroft Holmes and the Edinburgh Affair* (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 386 pp., \$18.95), the second in her series about Mycroft, his fellow Secret Service agents, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, is more of a thriller than a mystery, but there is plenty of action and villainy. Arthur Hall's *The Secret Assassin* (2017; 92 pp., \$9.95) sends Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a mysterious killer in a case that begins in London and ends in rural Somerset. And Denis O. Smith's *The Further Chronicles of Sherlock Holmes, Volumes One and Two* (2018; 412 pp.,

\$34.95) is a collection of a dozen new pastiches, some of which were successful cases, and some not. Tim Symonds' *Sherlock Holmes and the Nine-Dragon Sigil* (2016; 358 pp., \$16.95) Holmes and Watson in Imperial China in 1906, involved in thwarting a civil war, in a tale that's full of detail about Chinese life, politics, and history. Peter Bevelin's *A Few Lessons from Sherlock Holmes* (2013; 81 pp., \$9.95) offers advice on improving one's critical thinking, with quotes from the Canon, and from others who include Cuvier, Pasteur, Darwin and Bell. MX Publishing's books can be purchased at a discount at www.sherlockholmesbooks.com.

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1111. Jul 20 #6 Neil McCaw died on Mar. 23. A professor of Victorian literature and Culture at Winchester University, he put together a delightful TED-Ed lesson in 2015 on "Who IS Sherlock Holmes?" that's still available at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/zcmrobb; he also contributed an insightful introduction and an annotated transcription of the story to the university's 2017 facsimile edition of *The Adventure of the Creeping Man*, wrote a *Historical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes* (2019), and was academic director of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth.
1112. The eight pages of original artwork for Mad magazine's "Shermlock Shomes!" (Jun 20 #7) did quite well at Heritage Auctions this month: \$72,000 (including the buyer's premium).
1113. "He was entirely absorbed in the pictures of the modern Belgian masters," Watson said of Holmes (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). According to H. R. F. Keating (*Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His World*, 1979, p. 90-91), the modern Belgian masters were the Groupe des Vingt; one of its founders was Théo Van Rysselberghe, whose painting "Barques de pêche-Méditerranée" went to auction at Christie's in New York on July 10, estimated at \$7 million-\$10 million; it sold for \$9,128,000 (including the buyer's premium) www.tinyurl.com/y9fhx3s8. You can read about the painting and the artist at www.tinyurl.com/y7cgexey.
1114. Lenny Picker reports some welcome news for fans of Gary Larson's "The Far Side": he's back, and has a new web-site at www.thefarside.com/newstuff, where he says "I've got my coffee, I've got this cool gizmo, and I've got no deadlines, And—to borrow from Sherlock Holmes—the game is afoot." His past work includes a cartoon about Buddy's dreams of being the Parakeet of the Baskervilles (Dec. 5, 1986) (reprinted in his *Hound of the Far Side* in 1987), and it's nice to know he hasn't forgotten Sherlock Holmes.
1115. "Take a Look at Baker Street Bar Dr. Watson's Cheeky Toilet Makeover" was the headline on a nicely-illustrated article in the Middlesbrough Gazette on July 9 www.tinyurl.com/yb5y9jlu that explained that "a large mural of Sherlock Holmes now looms over punters in the gents loos—and he's got his magnifying glass out." Middlesbrough (N. Yorks.) also has bars named "The Twisted Lip and Sherlock's."
1116. "Strictly Professor Challenger" is a new one-man presentation written and performed by Jonathan Miller for Don't Go Into the Cellar and MX Publishing, and it's available on-line until the end of August at the MX web-site www.tinyurl.com/y46u2r56.
1117. Paul Thomas Miller has reported (sadly) the first coronavirus incident at a meeting of a Sherlockian society: "Now that easing is in place, 19th July 2020 was supposed to be the Shingle of Southsea's first meeting since the COVID Lockdown. Unfortunately when our member turned up he refused to comply with society policy on wearing a face mask in The Sherloft. Things turned physical and the meeting had to be cancelled. Fortunately the entire incident was caught on camera and the Shingle of Southsea board will be considering whether to take further action based on the evidence caught in the video." www.youtube.com/watch?v=f179yEN9o-0.
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1118. Jul 20 #7 The headline on the on-line version of Michael Dirda's "Book World" in the Washington Post (July 16) reads "William Clark Russell's 'The Wreck of the Grosvenor' Is a Transporting Nautical Adventure" (and the headline in print was "Sea Dogs Preyed Upon by Sea Wolves") www.tinyurl.com/78ccs7yc; he begins by recalling that Watson was "deep in one of Clark Russell's fine sea stories" (at the beginning of "The Five Orange Pips"). Dirda believes that the fine sea story was "The Wreck of the Grosvenor" and that "there's enough action and suspense to satisfy anyone, even Dr. Watson, who knows a thing or two about adventure."
1119. One of the many actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes celebrated his 85th birthday this month, and was congratulated by the president; the official announcement is at www.tinyurl.com/y2aakdj6.
1120. "Play Away" was a long-running 25-minute children's series that was broadcast by BBC-2, and in 1984 an episode included an 11-minute segment ("The Murder of Lord Ronnie Eccleston Smythe") featuring Floella Benjamin (Shirley Holmes) and Brian Cant (Wally Watson). The tape was thought to have been wiped by the BBC, but a videotape recorded by a fan has turned up at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/vyyhjl4. A tip of the deerstalker for the discovery to Adrian Nebbitt.
1121. Roy and Maxine Reneker are seeking people, young and old, who would like to be charter members of a new Sherlockian society, open to everyone, in the Monterey region of California mreneker@pacbell.net.
1122. Greg Darak notes that the current issue of Little Shoppe of Horrors ("the journal of classic British horror films") features "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and includes mentions of the BBC's "Sherlock" in coverage of the new "Dracula" series www.littleshoppeofhorrors.com/LSOH44.htm (\$10.95 plus shipping).
1123. Nominees for the Macavity Awards (from Mystery Readers International) include Terence Faherty's "The Cardboard Box" (best mystery short story) and Laird R. Blackwell's *Frederic Dannay, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and the Art of the Detective Short Story* (best mystery nonfiction/critical); the winners will be announced during the opening ceremonies of the Sacramento Virtual Bouchercon in October, and you can see all of the nominees at www.mysteryreaders.org/mccavity-awards.
1124. And yes indeed, this year's Bouchercon, scheduled for Sacramento, will be virtual, on Oct. 16-17 www.bouchercon2020.org. Bouchercon will be held in New Orleans, Aug. 25-29, 2021; and in Minneapolis, Sept. 8-11, 2022.
1125. The manuscript of "The Greek Interpreter" was offered in an on-line auction at Sotheby's this month, with an opening bid of \$300,000 (lowered to \$280,000 toward the end of the auction), but the manuscript did not sell. Sotheby's asked Mark Gatiss to reflect on-line on "the adventures of the famous detective" www.tinyurl.com/y8e5vj8b; Gatiss not only was co-creator of "Sherlock" for the BBC, but he also played Mycroft Holmes (who appeared in the Canon for the first time in "The Greek Interpreter"). Randall Stock describes the manuscript at www.tinyurl.com/y87e5n6y.
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1126. Jul 20 #8 The summer issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) includes articles by Dana Richards (about Conan Doyle's Psychic Bookshop), and by Charles Prepoieic (about "The Case of Lady Sannox"), and

- other reports from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.
1127. "Sherlock Holmes Is Real" is an imaginative podcast launched by Toni Sutherland in 2017; now hosted by Talon King, with 28 episodes, it's available at <www.sherlockholmesisreal.libsyn.com>.
1128. There was a virtual celebration of the 10th anniversary of the BBC "Sherlock" television series, in which Louis Moffat presided over a Q&A session with his parents, Steven Moffat and Sue Vertue, and Mark Gatiss; you can watch the proceedings at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=alJtully_QQ>. And Radio Times celebrated the anniversary with an edited version of an older interview with Steven Moffat on "how Conan Doyle inspired me" that you can read at <www.tinyurl.com/yyz8hdtg>.
1129. Benoit Guilielmo, an ardent Sherlockian in France, writes often about the Canon, in English as well as in French <www.tinyurl.com/y8xzd2e>, and his anthology of "Early Sherlockiana (1927-1934)" will be of special interest to anyone who wants to read early Writings about the Writings.
1130. Titan is continuing its series of manga graphic novels of the BBC's "Sherlock" series (illustrated by Jay); the latest is "A Scandal in Belgravia: Part One" (\$12.99), and you can see samples at <www.tinyurl.com/y2mbfbzy>.
1131. The original *British Legion Album* <www.tinyurl.com/y9c5hljt> went to auc-tion at Sotheby's in London this month, estimated at £30,000-£50,000; the album was compiled to aid veterans of the First World War, and a facsimile was published in 1924. The album contains hundreds of inscriptions, signatures, and other entries from a wide range of public figures, including Conan Doyle, who contributed the closing sentences, in manuscript, of *The British Campaign in France and Flanders*; the album was not sold (no bidder matched the reserve).
1132. There's not much theatrical news, in this time of the novel coronavirus, but the Central Piedmont Theatre, which had to cancel their production of Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" in July, have instead have gone virtual, and on June 27 streamed "Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/y7nt3x7r>.
1133. A new (and partially improvised) three-actor dramatization "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed on the lawn at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks., through Aug. 8 <www.watermill.org.uk>.
1134. And the Pantaloons Theatre Company are on tour again in Britain, offering Mark Hayward's four-actor "Sherlock Holmes" <www.thepantaloons.co.uk>.
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1135. Aug 20 #1 Because of the pandemic, the Baker Street Irregulars are planning two vir- tual events in January, with the Distinguished Speaker Lecture on Thursday evening, Jan. 7, and the BSI Annual dinner on Friday, Jan. 8. Visit the BSI web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-dates>, and sign up for "News from the BSI" to receive additional information about the birth- day festivities when it's available.
1136. If you would like know more about the Baker Street Irregulars, and our new Wiggins, Michael H. Kean, he was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wol- der for episode 198 of their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog, on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y698vb4b>.
1137. The lawsuit that was filed by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. over the upcom- ing Netflix television film based on Nancy Springer's "Enola Holmes" ser- ies of book (Jul 20 #1) will be contested: the film defendants (all those except Nancy Springer and her publishers) have filed a response, denying any infringement on copyrights and trademarks, demanding a jury trial, and asking the court to require the CDEL to reimburse the defendants for their costs.
1138. The defendants state in their response that the CDEL's "claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the equitable doctrine of unclean hands." That's nicely theological: according to Wikipedia, the doctrine can be traced as far back as the Fourth Lateran Council, which was held in 1215. There's much more to the response, of course, and the documents in the case con- veniently are available on-line at www.free-sherlock.com
1139. Netflix has released an official teaser for the film, available on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrChuCpgbT0>, and has announced that the film is to be released on Sept. 23.
1140. Elinor Gray, coordinator of the Left Coast Sherlockian Symposium, has an- nounced that the Symposium will be a virtual event via Zoom this year, on Oct. 10, with a four-hour cocktail hour followed by presentations by Les Klinger, Bonnie MacBird, Angela Misri, Rob Nunn, and Mina Hoffman. You're invited to name your own ticket price; details about the symposium (and a link to registration) are at <www.leftcoastsherlock.com>.
1141. "Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss Reveal Their Top Picks for Female Sherlock Holmes" was the headline on a story in Radio Times (July 27): Moffat also noted a potential problem with casting a woman as Watson (the story's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y28wkqtr>).
1142. Otto Penzler is both the proprietor of the Mysterious Bookshop in New York and a publisher, and Penzler Publishers is issuing a long series of Ameri- can Classic Mysteries, reprinting some fine books, often with new intro- ductions and afterwords <www.tinyurl.com/yyrdpkm4> (\$25.95 in cloth/\$15.95 in paper). Titles of interest to Sherlockians include Anthony Boucher's *Rocket to the Morgue* and H. F. Heard's *A Taste for Honey* (2019), and An- thony Boucher's *The Case of the Baker Street Irregulars* (2020). Vincent Starrett's *The Great Hotel Murder* (2020), with an introduction by Lyndsay Faye, isn't Sherlockian, but nevertheless a nice mystery.
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1143. Aug 20 #2 Edward D. Hoch's *Hoch's Ladies* (Cincinnati: Crippen & Landru, 2019; 288 pp., \$45.00 cloth/\$19.00 paper) has an introduction by Michael Dirda and includes Hoch's "A Parcel of Deerstarkers" (reprinted from *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. Jan. 1995) <www.crippenlandru.com>.
1144. Jeffrey Marks now is the publisher at Crippen & Landru, which was founded by Douglas G. Greene (now the series editor), and they continue to publish grand collections of short stories by Ed Hoch and others, as well as long-out-of-print novels.
1145. "I'm a writer but then nobody's perfect" is a delightful epitaph, chosen by someone who was far more than a writer, and had Sherlockian credentials <www.flickr.com/photos/jrlogue/5199635955>. A tip of the deerstalker to Al Gregory for reporting this.
1146. The "Holmes in the Heartland" conference that was scheduled in St. Louis this summer has been rescheduled, and it will now take place on July 9-11, 2021 <www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj>.
1147. Cade Deverell has reported a new publisher of miniature books: Tony Firman Bookbinding <www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com>; you can click on "Plum Park Press" and then on "Doyle" to see their edition of "The Five Orange Pips" (\$47.00 postpaid). Earlier editions of "A Scandal in Bohemia", "The Red-Headed League" and "The Blue Carbuncle" are out of print, but might be re- printed, and "The Copper Beeches" is planned for January; if you're inter-ested in any of these, contact Tony Firman at <tonyfirmanbooks@gmail.com>.

1148. Chris Redmond's "Sherlock Holmes, Socks, and Simpson" (his latest contribution to Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere") shows that there always is something new to be said about things mentioned only in passing in the Canon <www.tinyurl.com/y22nq27z>.
1149. John Sutherland's *Curiosities of Literature* (New York: Skyhorse, 2011; 289 pp., \$12.95), accurately sub-titled "a feast for book-lovers," presents a collection of short entries covering a wide variety of literary trivia and miscellanea; the section on "morbid curiosity" includes a brief discussion of "the Baskerville Effect" (can one actually be frightened to death?) and the fascinating story of the only person to have committed suicide in the London Library (the suicide's not Sherlockian, but the London Library is mentioned in the Canon).
1150. The manuscript of "The Land of Mist" (Jun 20 #1), at auction at Christie's in London, was sold July 30 for £47,500 (including the buyer's premium). Randall Stock offers a discussion of the manuscript at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/land-mist-2020.htm>.
1151. *Remote Sensing in Action: The Curious Case of Sherlock Holmes and Albert Einstein*, by Enders A. Robinson and Dean Clark (Tulsa: Society of Exploration Geophysicists, 2014; 374 pp., \$122.00), is an interesting example of "scientific fiction" combining a fictional narrative with real science; in this book Robinson (a geophysicist) and Clark (a Sherlockian as well as an editor) use Holmes and Watson to explain the impact of Einstein's theory of relativity on the science of remote sensing <www.library.seg.org>.
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1152. Aug 20 #3 Just in case you weren't watching television in 1959: there's no mention Sherlock Holmes in "Count the Man Down" (an unsold pilot broadcast by CBS-TV), but it features Nero Wolfe (who of course does have a Sherlockian connection) and Archie Goodwin (played by an actor who may surprise you); kindly reported by J. P. Van Gordon, it's available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_AoebAAig4>.
1153. History Extra (the web-site of the BBC History Magazine) offers a 34-minute podcast in which Sarah LeFanu discussing her recent book *Something of Themselves: Kipling, Kingsley, Conan Doyle, and the Anglo-Boer War* (Jun 20 #7) <www.tinyurl.com/y4qe4cmu>.
1154. An addition to the list of actors who have played Conan Doyle: Michael McElhatton, in the British film "Agatha and the Truth of Murder" (2018), now available on Netflix. It's a 92-minute film, almost completely fictional, opening with Agatha Christie, who has encountered writer's block, discussing writing and golf with Conan Doyle; she then goes on to investigate a murder, and there are amusing mentions of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle at 29 and 69 minutes.
1155. There's also Gavin Mclver-Wright, who provided the voice of Conan Doyle, in "I Am Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (an 11-minute segment of the animated series "Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum" that aired on PBS Kids on Aug. 6 this year). There are lots of repeats on the channel, so you may still be able to watch it.
1156. If you would like to read "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual, that's easy to do, since the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas has digitized its copy <www.tinyurl.com/yyfrpt69> (thanks to Jim Hawkins for noting this). There's one living Sherlockian, by the way, who read his very first Sherlock Holmes story in a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual: Russell Merritt, at the Houghton Library at Harvard.
1157. "Peter Cushing: In His Own Words" is an hour-long video (well, audio with images) of an interview with Cushing, recorded in 1986, long believed to have been lost, recently rediscovered, and issued last year by Rabbit & Snail Films <www.tinyurl.com/yyomufpr>. Cushing discusses his career as an actor, with due attention paid to Sherlock Holmes; there's a trailer at the web-site, and another at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y46x9yn5>.
1158. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, Agatha Christie's first book, celebrated by Publishers Weekly (Aug. 3) with an article ("In the Study, with a Typewriter") by Liz Scheier, who notes that the Guinness World Records credits Agatha Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all time, as well as the most translated (7,236 translations as of 2017).
1159. On the other hand: Don Hobbs has recorded 11,287 translations of Sherlock Holmes stories, with more to come, in his colorful bibliography. The latest version of "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes" is available on request and without charge (as a 430-MB file via WeTransfer) <221b@verizon.net>.
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1160. Aug 20 #4 Bryan Woolley's *Mythic Texas* (2000) is delightful collection of stories about the weird and wonderful people the author has met and written about in the *Dallas Morning News* (and it's easy to discover such people in Texas); his "The Adventure of the Eccentric Sherlockians" tells about his encounter with Bill Beeson, Don Hobbs, and Jim Webb. The book's out of print, but readily available from on-line booksellers, and great fun.
1161. Rob Nunn's "Interesting Though Elementary" is one of many blogs available on the Internet <www.interestingthoughelementary.blogspot.com>; he offers "interesting interviews" with Jerry Margolin, Jacquelynn Morris, Mike McSwiggin, Laurie R. King, Steve Doyle, and many others.
1162. Further to the report (June 20 #4) on "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles" (the new eight-part Russian television mini-series due later this year), there was a nicely illustrated interview with Nurbek Egen, director of the series, in *Drama Quarterly* (Aug. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/y45gmrzk>. And there is a trailer for the series at <www.tinyurl.com/yxnrdnn3>.
1163. The *Bradford Telegraph & Argus* published a nicely-illustrated story (Aug. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/y57ydxmx> on the Cottingley fairies material owned by the National Science and Media Museum; all three of the cameras are at the museum, along with Elsie Wright's drawings of fairies, made in 1893.
1164. Sherlockian collectors value the Feb. 1890 issue of Lippincott's *Monthly Magazine* (which contained the first appearance of "The Sign of the Four"); the story was commissioned by the magazine during a dinner at which Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde were both asked to write something, and Wilde wrote "The Portrait of Dorian Grey" (which was published in the July 1890 issue). Steven Berkoff's splendid collection of Wilde material, offered at Sotheby's in London on Aug. 4, included both the British and American editions of the magazine <www.tinyurl.com/y4mg3pax>; the British edition (estimated at £1,500-£2,000) sold for £4,032 (including the buyer's premium) and the American edition (estimated at £1,000-£1,500) went unsold. It should be noted that a copy of the American edition with "The Sign of the Four" was sold at Heritage Auctions in 2018 for \$12,500.
1165. Another interesting lot in Sotheby's auction, from the collection of M. T. Johnson, included five Kodak glass lantern slides of the Cottingley fairies <www.tinyurl.com/yyqzqn6c>. Marjorie T. Johnson was the secretary of the Fairy Investigation Society, a "semi-secret occult group" founded in 1927. Estimated at £3,000-£5,000, the lot sold for £4,032.
1166. "How Paul McGuigan Crafted the Visual Language of Sherlock" was the title of an interesting interview (Den of Geek, Aug. 5) with the director of the first four episodes of the BBC series <www.tinyurl.com/y4yxjufb>.
1167. Reported: the SeaWolf Press <www.seawolfpress.com> offers print-on-demand editions of a long list of classic authors, including Conan Doyle; their books are not facsimiles: *A Study in Scarlet*, for example, was published in 2018, but states 1888 on the title page and has text based on an 1892 British edition, and cover art from Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887.

1168. Aug 20 #5 The Royal Mail has released its long-awaited stamps honoring both Sherlock Holmes and the 10th anniversary of the BBC tele- vision series, and offers a wide variety of collectibles: stamps, presen- tation packs, first day covers, prints, and (courtesy of the Royal Mint) silver medals <www.shop.royalmail.com/special-stamp-issues/sherlock>; the Royal Mail and the Royal Mint are corporations, and are far ahead of the U.S. Postal Service in catering to collectors. There also were plenty of authorized postmarks for the stamps <www.royalmail.com/postmarks>, in ad- dition to the official first-day postmarks.
1169. There are six stamps with designs from the television series, each with a hidden message that can be seen with ultra-violet light, and four stamps in a miniature sheet commemorating stories from the Canon. The miniature sheet was designed by Lithuanian artist Karolis Strautniekas; you can see a selection of his other artwork at <www.strautniekas.com>.
1170. Eagle-eyed musicians were quick to report an error in one of the designs, explained at the Classic FM web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y5rs2ukx>. And yes, it's the Royal Mail's mistake, which isn't in the episode in the series.
1171. Not the sort of letter an author enjoys: "Probably the most hopeless kind of manuscript a publisher expects to receive from his favourite author is that of poetry for children." According to Barbara Richardson in *Book and Magazine Collector* (Dec. 1998), that is what an editor at Dutton wrote to A. A. Milne about *When We Were Very Young*. Of course Dutton did publish the book, which sold 10,000 copies in the first four weeks, not at all bad for 1924 (in Britain, Methuen's first printing of 5,140 copies sold out on the first day).
1172. Nicholas Basbanes was one of the panelists at the Baker Street Irregulars' conference at the Lilly Library last year, and he has now written the in- troduction for W. Bolingbroke Johnson's *The Widening Stain*, recently re- printed in Otto Penzler's series of American mystery classics; Otto's 54- minute interview with Nick at the launch party for the book is available at <www.tinyurl.com/yxmam5lw>.
1173. Karen Murdock reports that Stanfords offers a "Sherlock Holmes Map of Lon- don" showing London as it was in 1891 and keyed to locations in the four novels (£9.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y2ha3mus>. There is a different (and in- teresting) interactive Sherlockian map of the world (with descriptions in Spanish) on-line at <www.sherlockland.com>.
1174. Paul Thomas Miller's "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (Mar 19 #4), a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes," has published *No Holmes Barred* (its first "scrapbook of Holmesiana"), which is available as a free download at the society's web-site at <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>.
1175. Greg Ruby reports that the Windsor Mint has issued a set of six "Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective" gold-plated copper medals that have something new for those who collect this sort of thing: the designs each include a bit of manuscript from one of the stories; £149.50 for the set in a pre- sentation folder <www.tinyurl.com/y6tbmjpx>.
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1176. Aug 20 #6 Roland-François Lack says his Cine-Tourist web-site is "about connections between maps and films" but there's much more than that, and it's well worth exploring <www.thecinetourist.net>; there isn't a search engine, so: click on "London" and then on "Sherlock Holmes" for a quick tour of his many Sherlockian discoveries. A tip of the deerstalker to Steve Rothman for reporting this interesting web-site.
1177. Linda Hein reports that Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are available for consultations at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif.; bring your friends or family, and a problem, and if you don't have a problem, one can easily be arranged. Facemasks and social distancing are required, and tea and refreshments will be available <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.
1178. One can still make good use of libraries while staying at home during the pandemic. The Toronto Reference Library has digitized 375 items in their Arthur Conan Doyle Collection: go to <www.tinyurl.com/yypgdpez> and click on "View digitized items" to have fun exploring. They also have created an imaginative virtual Sherlock Holmes Escape Room, which you'll find on- line at <www.tinyurl.com/y69x9ghn>.
1179. A few years ago Dana Richards reported Doyle's Delight, the highest peak in Belize, named in honor of "The Lost World" (Jun 17 #6). Now Geraldine Beare has noted Doyle's Delight Street in Balmopan, the capital of Belize; the street's only a few blocks long, but Google Maps shows you can dine at Bellavi's Bistro, and there's a nearby bed-and-breakfast to stay in.
1180. It's nice to know that the Sesame Street Workshop has not abandoned Sher- lock Hemlock, who appears often (although briefly) in the audience during "The Not-Too-Late Show with Elmo" (which launched on HBO Max on May 27). You can see him, Howard Ostrom reports, in the third row at the far right in a preview available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yxvzxo9u>.
1181. Sonia Fetherston reports a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise at the Redbubble web-site; there are more than 200 Sherlockian jigsaw puzzles in case you're bored during the pandemic <www.tinyurl.com/y4hwxjxe>.
1182. Laurie R. King's web-site <www.laurierking.com> always is interesting, and her blogs always entertaining; see "The Case of Laurie and the Monegasque Prince" (July 31) and "Feisty Old Ladies" (Aug. 12). She also reports in her occasional newsletter "News & Nonsense" that she is closing in on 200 pages in the first draft of her next Mary Russell novel *Castle Shade*.
1183. All of the seats at the new (and partially improvised) three-actor drama- tization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (on the lawn at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks.) sold out in the first 24 hours, so the run has been extended through Sept. 6 <www.watermill.org.uk>.
1184. Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the Muskegon Civic Theatre in Muskegon, Mich., Feb. 12-27 <www.muskegoncivictheatre.com>.
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